

By: Hughes

H.B. No. 1278

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the amount of financial assistance paid to the
3 survivors of certain law enforcement officers, firefighters, and
4 other public employees killed in the line of duty.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 615.022, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 615.022. PAYMENT TO SURVIVORS. (a) If there is an
9 eligible surviving spouse, the state shall pay \$500,000 [~~\$250,000~~]
10 to the eligible surviving spouse.

11 (b) If there is no eligible surviving spouse, the state
12 shall pay \$500,000 [~~\$250,000~~] in equal shares to surviving
13 children.

14 (c) If there is no eligible surviving spouse or child, the
15 state shall pay \$500,000 [~~\$250,000~~] in equal shares to surviving
16 parents.

17 SECTION 2. Section 615.023(a), Government Code, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 (a) The state shall pay to the duly appointed or qualified
20 guardian or other legal representative of an eligible surviving
21 minor child:

22 (1) \$400 [~~\$200~~] each month, if there is one surviving
23 child;

24 (2) \$600 [~~\$300~~] each month, if there are two surviving

1 children; or

2 (3) \$800 [~~\$400~~] each month, if there are three or more
3 surviving children.

4 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act relating to
5 the death of certain public servants apply only in relation to a
6 death that occurs on or after September 1, 2015. Matters regarding
7 eligibility, payment, and other benefits in relation to a death
8 that occurs before September 1, 2015, are governed by the law in
9 effect when the death occurs, and the former law is continued in
10 effect for that purpose.

11 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.