

1-1 By: King of Parker, et al. H.B. No. 1526
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Huffman)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 19, 2017;
 1-4 May 1, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on State
 1-5 Affairs; May 8, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-6 Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 8, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to the provision of state death benefits to peace officers
 1-21 employed by certain private institutions of higher education
 1-22 located in this state.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 615.003, Government Code, is amended to
 1-25 read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 615.003. APPLICABILITY. This chapter applies only to
 1-27 eligible survivors of the following individuals:

1-28 (1) an individual:

1-29 (A) elected, appointed, or employed as a peace
 1-30 officer by the state or a political subdivision of the state under
 1-31 Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law; or

1-32 (B) employed as a peace officer by a private
 1-33 institution of higher education, including a private junior
 1-34 college, that is located in this state under Section 51.212,
 1-35 Education Code;

1-36 (2) a paid probation officer appointed by the director
 1-37 of a community supervision and corrections department who has the
 1-38 duties set out in Section 76.002 and the qualifications set out in
 1-39 Section 76.005, or who was appointed in accordance with prior law;

1-40 (3) a parole officer employed by the Texas Department
 1-41 of Criminal Justice who has the duties set out in Section 508.001
 1-42 and the qualifications set out in Section 508.113 or in prior law;

1-43 (4) a paid jailer;

1-44 (5) a member of an organized police reserve or
 1-45 auxiliary unit who regularly assists peace officers in enforcing
 1-46 criminal laws;

1-47 (6) a member of the class of employees of the
 1-48 correctional institutions division formally designated as
 1-49 custodial personnel under Section 615.006 by the Texas Board of
 1-50 Criminal Justice or its predecessor in function;

1-51 (7) a jailer or guard of a county jail who is appointed
 1-52 by the sheriff and who:

1-53 (A) performs a security, custodial, or
 1-54 supervisory function over the admittance, confinement, or
 1-55 discharge of prisoners; and

1-56 (B) is certified by the Texas Commission on Law
 1-57 Enforcement;

1-58 (8) a juvenile correctional employee of the Texas
 1-59 Juvenile Justice Department;

1-60 (9) an employee of the Department of Aging and
 1-61 Disability Services or Department of State Health Services who:

1-62 (A) works at the department's maximum security
 1-63 unit; or

1-64 (B) performs on-site services for the Texas

2-1 Department of Criminal Justice;
 2-2 (10) an individual who is employed by the state or a
 2-3 political or legal subdivision and is subject to certification by
 2-4 the Texas Commission on Fire Protection;
 2-5 (11) an individual employed by the state or a
 2-6 political or legal subdivision whose principal duties are aircraft
 2-7 crash and rescue fire fighting;
 2-8 (12) a member of an organized volunteer fire-fighting
 2-9 unit that:
 2-10 (A) renders fire-fighting services without
 2-11 remuneration; and
 2-12 (B) conducts a minimum of two drills each month,
 2-13 each two hours long;
 2-14 (13) an individual who:
 2-15 (A) performs emergency medical services or
 2-16 operates an ambulance;
 2-17 (B) is employed by a political subdivision of the
 2-18 state or is an emergency medical services volunteer as defined by
 2-19 Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code; and
 2-20 (C) is qualified as an emergency care attendant
 2-21 or at a higher level of training under Section 773.046, 773.047,
 2-22 773.048, 773.049, or 773.0495, Health and Safety Code;
 2-23 (14) an individual who is employed or formally
 2-24 designated as a chaplain for:
 2-25 (A) an organized volunteer fire-fighting unit or
 2-26 other fire department of this state or of a political subdivision of
 2-27 this state;
 2-28 (B) a law enforcement agency of this state or of a
 2-29 political subdivision of this state; or
 2-30 (C) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
 2-31 (15) an individual who is employed by the state or a
 2-32 political subdivision of the state and who is considered by the
 2-33 governmental employer to be a trainee for a position otherwise
 2-34 described by this section;
 2-35 (16) an individual who is employed by the Department
 2-36 of Public Safety and, as certified by the director, is:
 2-37 (A) deployed into the field in direct support of
 2-38 a law enforcement operation, including patrol, investigative,
 2-39 search and rescue, crime scene, on-site communications, or special
 2-40 operations; and
 2-41 (B) given a special assignment in direct support
 2-42 of operations relating to organized crime, criminal interdiction,
 2-43 border security, counterterrorism, intelligence, traffic
 2-44 enforcement, emergency management, regulatory services, or special
 2-45 investigations; or
 2-46 (17) an individual who is employed by the Parks and
 2-47 Wildlife Department and, as certified by the executive director of
 2-48 the Parks and Wildlife Department, is:
 2-49 (A) deployed into the field in direct support of
 2-50 a law enforcement operation, including patrol, investigative,
 2-51 search and rescue, crime scene, on-site communications, or special
 2-52 operations; and
 2-53 (B) given a special assignment in direct support
 2-54 of operations relating to organized crime, criminal interdiction,
 2-55 border security, counterterrorism, intelligence, traffic
 2-56 enforcement, emergency management, regulatory services, or special
 2-57 investigations.
 2-58 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act relating to
 2-59 the death of peace officers employed by certain private
 2-60 institutions of higher education located in this state applies only
 2-61 in relation to a death that occurs on or after the effective date of
 2-62 this Act. Matters regarding eligibility, payment, and benefits
 2-63 under Chapter 615, Government Code, in relation to a death that
 2-64 occurs before the effective date of this Act are governed by the law
 2-65 in effect when the death occurs, and the former law is continued in
 2-66 effect for that purpose.
 2-67 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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