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H.B. No. 41

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to paid leave for a state employee who is a search and  
rescue volunteer.

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

SECTION 1. Section 661.905, Government Code, is amended to  
read as follows:

Sec. 661.905. VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS, ~~[AND]~~ EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL SERVICES VOLUNTEERS, AND SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS. (a)  
In this section:

(1) "Emergency" ~~["emergency"]~~ medical services  
volunteer" has the meaning assigned by Section 773.003, Health and  
Safety Code.

(2) "Search and rescue volunteer" means an individual  
who without remuneration, except reimbursement for expenses,  
provides services for or on behalf of an organization that conducts  
search and rescue activities.

(b) A state employee who is a volunteer firefighter, ~~[or]~~ an  
emergency medical services volunteer, or a search and rescue  
volunteer is entitled to a leave of absence without a deduction in  
salary to attend fire service, ~~[or]~~ emergency medical services, or  
search and rescue training conducted by a state agency or  
institution of higher education. Leave without a deduction in  
salary under this subsection may not exceed five working days in a  
fiscal year.

1           (c) A state agency or institution of higher education may  
2 grant leave without a deduction in salary to a volunteer  
3 firefighter, ~~or~~ an emergency medical services volunteer, or a  
4 search and rescue volunteer for the purpose of allowing the  
5 firefighter, ~~or~~ emergency medical services volunteer, or search  
6 and rescue volunteer to respond to emergency fire, ~~or~~ medical, or  
7 search and rescue situations if the agency or institution has an  
8 established policy for granting that leave.

9           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.