

AN ACT

relating to financial assistance paid to the survivors of certain law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other public employees killed in the line of duty.

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

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

Sec. 615.022. PAYMENT TO SURVIVORS. (a) If there is an eligible surviving spouse, the state shall pay the benefits described by Subsection (d) [~~\$500,000~~] to the eligible surviving spouse.

(b) If there is no eligible surviving spouse, the state shall pay the benefits described by Subsection (d) [~~\$500,000~~] in equal shares to surviving children.

(c) If there is no eligible surviving spouse or child, the state shall pay the benefits described by Subsection (d) [~~\$500,000~~] in equal shares to surviving parents.

(d) An eligible survivor, or eligible survivors in equal shares, are entitled to receive a lump sum payment in the amount provided by this subsection. The lump sum payment amount payable to an eligible survivor during the 12 months beginning September 1, 2019, is \$500,000. Effective September 1 of each following year, the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas by rule shall adjust the amount of the lump sum payment required under

1 this subsection by an amount equal to the percentage change in the
2 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, published by the
3 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor
4 for the preceding year. The amount paid to an eligible survivor or
5 survivors as adjusted under this subsection is calculated based on
6 the date of the decedent's death and not on the date the eligible
7 survivor or survivors file a claim under this chapter.

8 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a
9 payment of assistance to survivors of certain public employees on
10 or after the effective date of this Act regardless of the date the
11 public employee died.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3635 was passed by the House on May 9, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 141, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3635 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor