By:  Nelson S.B. No. 1550

(In the Senate - Filed March 11, 2021; March 24, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; April 15, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 15, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Whitmire        X

Huffman         X

Bettencourt     X

Birdwell        X

Hinojosa        X

Miles                     X

Nichols                   X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to airport police forces, including the authority to commission peace officers and the rights, privileges, and duties of those officers.

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

SECTION 1.  Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

Art. 2.12.  WHO ARE PEACE OFFICERS. The following are peace officers:

(1)  sheriffs, their deputies, and those reserve deputies who hold a permanent peace officer license issued under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code;

(2)  constables, deputy constables, and those reserve deputy constables who hold a permanent peace officer license issued under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code;

(3)  marshals or police officers of an incorporated city, town, or village, and those reserve municipal police officers who hold a permanent peace officer license issued under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code;

(4)  rangers, officers, and members of the reserve officer corps commissioned by the Public Safety Commission and the Director of the Department of Public Safety;

(5)  investigators of the district attorneys', criminal district attorneys', and county attorneys' offices;

(6)  law enforcement agents of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission;

(7)  each member of an arson investigating unit commissioned by a city, a county, or the state;

(8)  officers commissioned under Section 37.081, Education Code, or Subchapter E, Chapter 51, Education Code;

(9)  officers commissioned by the General Services Commission;

(10)  law enforcement officers commissioned by the Parks and Wildlife Commission;

(11)  [~~airport police~~] officers commissioned under Chapter 23, Transportation Code [~~by a city with a population of more than 1.18 million located primarily in a county with a population of 2 million or more that operates an airport that serves commercial air carriers~~];

(12)  [~~airport security personnel commissioned as peace officers by the governing body of any political subdivision of this state, other than a city described by Subdivision (11), that operates an airport that serves commercial air carriers;~~

[~~(13)~~]  municipal park and recreational patrolmen and security officers;

(13) [~~(14)~~]  security officers and investigators commissioned as peace officers by the comptroller;

(14) [~~(15)~~]  officers commissioned by a water control and improvement district under Section 49.216, Water Code;

(15) [~~(16)~~]  officers commissioned by a board of trustees under Chapter 54, Transportation Code;

(16) [~~(17)~~]  investigators commissioned by the Texas Medical Board;

(17) [~~(18)~~]  officers commissioned by:

(A)  the board of managers of the Dallas County Hospital District, the Tarrant County Hospital District, the Bexar County Hospital District, or the El Paso County Hospital District under Section 281.057, Health and Safety Code;

(B)  the board of directors of the Ector County Hospital District under Section 1024.117, Special District Local Laws Code;

(C)  the board of directors of the Midland County Hospital District of Midland County, Texas, under Section 1061.121, Special District Local Laws Code; and

(D)  the board of hospital managers of the Lubbock County Hospital District of Lubbock County, Texas, under Section 1053.113, Special District Local Laws Code;

(18) [~~(19)~~]  county park rangers commissioned under Subchapter E, Chapter 351, Local Government Code;

(19) [~~(20)~~]  investigators employed by the Texas Racing Commission;

(20) [~~(21)~~]  officers commissioned under Chapter 554, Occupations Code;

(21) [~~(22)~~]  officers commissioned by the governing body of a metropolitan rapid transit authority under Section 451.108, Transportation Code, or by a regional transportation authority under Section 452.110, Transportation Code;

(22) [~~(23)~~]  investigators commissioned by the attorney general under Section 402.009, Government Code;

(23) [~~(24)~~]  security officers and investigators commissioned as peace officers under Chapter 466, Government Code;

(24) [~~(25)~~]  officers appointed by an appellate court under Subchapter F, Chapter 53, Government Code;

(25) [~~(26)~~]  officers commissioned by the state fire marshal under Chapter 417, Government Code;

(26) [~~(27)~~]  an investigator commissioned by the commissioner of insurance under Section 701.104, Insurance Code;

(27) [~~(28)~~]  apprehension specialists and inspectors general commissioned by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as officers under Sections 242.102 and 243.052, Human Resources Code;

(28) [~~(29)~~]  officers appointed by the inspector general of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice under Section 493.019, Government Code;

(29) [~~(30)~~]  investigators commissioned by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement under Section 1701.160, Occupations Code;

(30) [~~(31)~~]  commission investigators commissioned by the Texas Private Security Board under Section 1702.061, Occupations Code;

(31) [~~(32)~~]  the fire marshal and any officers, inspectors, or investigators commissioned by an emergency services district under Chapter 775, Health and Safety Code;

(32) [~~(33)~~]  officers commissioned by the State Board of Dental Examiners under Section 254.013, Occupations Code, subject to the limitations imposed by that section;

(33) [~~(34)~~]  investigators commissioned by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as officers under Section 221.011, Human Resources Code; and

(34) [~~(35)~~]  the fire marshal and any related officers, inspectors, or investigators commissioned by a county under Subchapter B, Chapter 352, Local Government Code.

SECTION 2.  The heading to Chapter 23, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 23. AIRPORT POLICE FORCES [~~SECURITY PERSONNEL~~]

SECTION 3.  Section 23.001, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 23.001.  ESTABLISHMENT OF AIRPORT POLICE [~~SECURITY~~] FORCE; COMMISSIONING OF PEACE OFFICERS. The governing body of a joint board, as defined by Section 22.071, or the governing body of a political subdivision that operates an airport served by an air carrier certificated by the Federal Aviation Administration [~~Civil Aeronautics Board~~] or the United States Department of Transportation may:

(1)  establish an airport police [~~security~~] force; and

(2)  commission and employ a peace officer, subject to Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, if the employee takes and files the oath required of peace officers [~~employ airport security personnel~~].

SECTION 4.  Sections 23.002 and 23.003, Transportation Code, are repealed.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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