

By: Burrows, Goldman, Longoria, Meyer,
Sherman, Sr., et al.

H.B. No. 2073

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to quarantine leave for fire fighters, peace officers,
3 detention officers, and emergency medical technicians employed by,
4 appointed by, or elected for a political subdivision.

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

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 180, Local Government
7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 CHAPTER 180. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AFFECTING OFFICERS AND
9 EMPLOYEES OF MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF [~~MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, AND~~
10 ~~CERTAIN OTHER~~] LOCAL GOVERNMENT [~~GOVERNMENTS~~]

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 180, Local Government Code, is amended
12 by adding Section 180.008 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 180.008. QUARANTINE LEAVE FOR FIRE FIGHTERS, PEACE
14 OFFICERS, DETENTION OFFICERS, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS.

15 (a) In this section:

16 (1) "Detention officer" means an individual appointed
17 or employed by a political subdivision as a county jailer or other
18 individual responsible for the care and custody of individuals
19 incarcerated in a county or municipal jail.

20 (2) "Emergency medical technician" means an
21 individual who is:

22 (A) certified as an emergency medical technician
23 under Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code; and

24 (B) employed by a political subdivision.

1 (3) "Fire fighter" means a paid employee of a
2 municipal fire department or emergency services district who:

3 (A) holds a position that requires substantial
4 knowledge of fire fighting;

5 (B) has met the requirements for certification by
6 the Texas Commission on Fire Protection under Chapter 419,
7 Government Code; and

8 (C) performs a function listed in Section
9 143.003(4)(A).

10 (4) "Peace officer" means an individual described by
11 Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, who is elected for,
12 employed by, or appointed by a political subdivision.

13 (b) A political subdivision shall place on paid quarantine
14 leave a fire fighter, peace officer, detention officer, or
15 emergency medical technician employed by the political subdivision
16 and ordered by a supervisor or a health authority to quarantine or
17 isolate due to a possible or known exposure to a communicable
18 disease while on duty.

19 (c) A political subdivision shall provide to a fire fighter,
20 peace officer, detention officer, or emergency medical technician
21 on quarantine leave:

22 (1) all employment benefits and compensation,
23 including leave accrual, pension benefits, and health benefit plan
24 benefits; and

25 (2) costs related to the quarantine, including
26 lodging, medical, and transportation costs.

27 (d) A political subdivision may not reduce a fire fighter's,

1 peace officer's, detention officer's, or emergency medical
2 technician's sick leave balance, vacation leave balance, holiday
3 leave balance, or other paid leave balance in connection with
4 quarantine leave required by Subsection (b).

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.