

By: Springer

S.B. No. 1401

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to quarantine leave for fire fighters, peace officers, and  
3 emergency medical technicians employed by, appointed by, or elected  
4 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, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS. (a) In this section:

15 (1) "Emergency medical technician" means an  
16 individual who is:

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

19 (B) employed by a political subdivision.

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

22 (A) holds a position that requires substantial  
23 knowledge of fire fighting;

24 (B) has met the requirements for certification by

1 the Texas Commission on Fire Protection under Chapter 419,  
2 Government Code; and

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

5 (3) "Peace officer" means an individual described by  
6 Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, who is elected for,  
7 employed by, or appointed by a political subdivision.

8 (b) A political subdivision shall place on paid quarantine  
9 leave a fire fighter, peace officer, or emergency medical  
10 technician employed by the political subdivision and ordered by a  
11 supervisor or a health authority to quarantine or isolate due to a  
12 possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty.

13 (c) A political subdivision shall provide to a fire fighter,  
14 peace officer, or emergency medical technician on quarantine leave:

15 (1) all employment benefits and compensation,  
16 including leave accrual, pension benefits, and health benefit plan  
17 benefits; and

18 (2) costs related to the quarantine, including  
19 lodging, medical, and transportation costs.

20 (d) A political subdivision may not reduce a fire fighter's,  
21 peace officer's, or emergency medical technician's sick leave  
22 balance, vacation leave balance, holiday leave balance, or other  
23 paid leave balance in connection with quarantine leave required by  
24 Subsection (b).

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.