

By: Turner

H.B. No. 4144

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4144:

By: Button

C.S.H.B. No. 4144

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to supplemental benefits for retired firefighters and peace officers diagnosed with certain diseases or illnesses.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 607, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN DISEASES OR ILLNESSES SUFFERED BY RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS AND PEACE OFFICERS

Sec. 607.151. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Consumer price index" means the average over a calendar year of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, published monthly by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor in function.

(2) "Firefighter" has the meaning assigned by Section 607.051.

(3) "Governmental entity" means a state agency or political subdivision.

(4) "Peace officer" has the meaning assigned by Section 607.051.

Sec. 607.152. BENEFITS FOR CANCER, ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION, OR STROKE. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (e), a governmental entity shall provide to a firefighter or peace officer who retires from the entity a critical-illness supplemental income benefit or comparable health benefit plan coverage in accordance

1 with this section if the firefighter or peace officer is diagnosed
2 with a disease described by Section 607.055 or 607.056 not later
3 than the third anniversary of the date the firefighter or peace
4 officer retires.

5 (b) The value of the supplemental income benefit provided
6 under Subsection (a) is the lesser of:

7 (1) the firefighter's or peace officer's final yearly
8 salary; or

9 (2) \$100,000.

10 (c) A governmental entity providing a supplemental income
11 benefit under Subsection (a) may provide the benefit in a lump sum
12 payment or equal payments over three consecutive months.

13 (d) Not later than September 1 of each year ending in a five,
14 the commissioner of workers' compensation by rule shall adjust the
15 amount described by Subsection (b)(2) by an amount equal to the
16 percentage increase, if any, in the consumer price index for the
17 preceding 10 years.

18 (e) This section does not apply to a governmental entity
19 that provides to a firefighter or peace officer who retires from the
20 entity a health benefit plan that is comparable in coverage and cost
21 to the retiree as the health benefit plan the entity provided to the
22 retiree on the day before the date the retiree retired.

23 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
24 to a firefighter or peace officer who retires on or after January 1,
25 2026.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.