

By: Perry

S.B. No. 502

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to peace officers commissioned by the Health and Human
3 Services Commission's office of inspector general.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article [2A.001](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Art. 2A.001. PEACE OFFICERS GENERALLY. The following are
8 peace officers:

9 (1) a sheriff, a sheriff's deputy, or a reserve deputy
10 sheriff who holds a permanent peace officer license issued under
11 Chapter [1701](#), Occupations Code;

12 (2) a constable, a deputy constable, or a reserve
13 deputy constable who holds a permanent peace officer license issued
14 under Chapter [1701](#), Occupations Code;

15 (3) a marshal or police officer of a municipality or a
16 reserve municipal police officer who holds a permanent peace
17 officer license issued under Chapter [1701](#), Occupations Code;

18 (4) a ranger, officer, or member of the reserve
19 officer corps commissioned by the Public Safety Commission and the
20 director of the Department of Public Safety;

21 (5) an investigator of a district attorney's, criminal
22 district attorney's, or county attorney's office;

23 (6) a law enforcement agent of the Texas Alcoholic
24 Beverage Commission;

1 (7) a member of an arson investigating unit
2 commissioned by a municipality, a county, or the state;

3 (8) an officer commissioned under Section 37.081,
4 Education Code, or Subchapter E, Chapter 51, Education Code;

5 (9) an officer commissioned by the Texas Facilities
6 Commission;

7 (10) a law enforcement officer commissioned by the
8 Parks and Wildlife Commission;

9 (11) an officer commissioned under Chapter 23,
10 Transportation Code;

11 (12) a municipal park and recreational patrol officer
12 or security officer;

13 (13) a security officer or investigator commissioned
14 as a peace officer by the comptroller;

15 (14) an officer commissioned by a water control and
16 improvement district under Section 49.216, Water Code;

17 (15) an officer commissioned by a board of trustees
18 under Chapter 54, Transportation Code;

19 (16) an investigator commissioned by the Texas Medical
20 Board;

21 (17) an officer commissioned by:

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

26 (B) the board of directors of the Ector County
27 Hospital District under Section 1024.117, Special District Local

1 Laws Code;

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

5 (D) the board of hospital managers of the Lubbock
6 County Hospital District of Lubbock County, Texas, under Section
7 1053.113, Special District Local Laws Code;

8 (18) a county park ranger commissioned under
9 Subchapter E, Chapter 351, Local Government Code;

10 (19) an investigator employed by the Texas Racing
11 Commission;

12 (20) an officer commissioned under Chapter 554,
13 Occupations Code;

14 (21) an officer commissioned by the governing body of
15 a metropolitan rapid transit authority under Section 451.108,
16 Transportation Code, or a regional transportation authority under
17 Section 452.110, Transportation Code;

18 (22) an investigator commissioned by the attorney
19 general under Section 402.009, Government Code;

20 (23) a security officer or investigator commissioned
21 as a peace officer under Chapter 466, Government Code;

22 (24) an officer appointed by an appellate court under
23 Subchapter F, Chapter 53, Government Code;

24 (25) an officer commissioned by the state fire marshal
25 under Chapter 417, Government Code;

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

1 (27) an apprehension specialist or inspector general
2 commissioned by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department as an officer
3 under Section 242.102 or 243.052, Human Resources Code;

4 (28) an officer appointed by the inspector general of
5 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice under Section 493.019,
6 Government Code;

7 (29) an investigator commissioned by the Texas
8 Commission on Law Enforcement under Section 1701.160, Occupations
9 Code;

10 (30) a fire marshal or any related officer, inspector,
11 or investigator commissioned by a county under Subchapter B,
12 Chapter 352, Local Government Code;

13 (31) a fire marshal or any officer, inspector, or
14 investigator commissioned by an emergency services district under
15 Chapter 775, Health and Safety Code;

16 (32) an officer commissioned by the State Board of
17 Dental Examiners under Section 254.013, Occupations Code, subject
18 to the limitations imposed by that section; ~~and~~

19 (33) an investigator commissioned by the Texas
20 Juvenile Justice Department as an officer under Section 221.011,
21 Human Resources Code; and

22 (34) an officer commissioned and employed by the
23 Health and Human Services Commission's office of inspector general.

24 SECTION 2. Section 544.0107, Government Code, as effective
25 April 1, 2025, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as
26 follows:

27 (d) The office of inspector general shall ensure a peace

1 officer employed under this section is compensated according to
2 Schedule C of the position classification salary schedule
3 prescribed by the General Appropriations Act.

4 SECTION 3. Section 659.301(5), Government Code, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (5) "State employee" means an individual who:

7 (A) is a commissioned law enforcement officer of
8 the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Facilities Commission,
9 the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Texas Department of
10 Criminal Justice, the attorney general, ~~or~~ the insurance fraud
11 unit of the Texas Department of Insurance, or the Health and Human
12 Services Commission's office of inspector general;

13 (B) is a commissioned security officer of the
14 comptroller;

15 (C) is a law enforcement officer commissioned by
16 the Parks and Wildlife Commission;

17 (D) is a commissioned peace officer of an
18 institution of higher education;

19 (E) is an employee or official of the Board of
20 Pardons and Paroles or the parole division of the Texas Department
21 of Criminal Justice if the employee or official has routine direct
22 contact with inmates of any penal or correctional institution or
23 with administratively released prisoners subject to the board's
24 jurisdiction;

25 (F) has been certified to the Employees
26 Retirement System of Texas under Section 815.505 as having begun
27 employment as a law enforcement officer or custodial officer,

1 unless the individual has been certified to the system as having
2 ceased employment as a law enforcement officer or custodial
3 officer;

4 (G) before May 29, 1987, received hazardous duty
5 pay based on the terms of any state law if the individual holds a
6 position designated under that law as eligible for the pay; or

7 (H) is a security officer employed by the Texas
8 Military Department.

9 SECTION 4. Section 661.918(a), Government Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 (a) This section applies to a peace officer under Article
12 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, who is commissioned as a law
13 enforcement officer or agent, including a ranger, by:

14 (1) the Public Safety Commission and the director of
15 the Department of Public Safety;

16 (2) the Parks and Wildlife Commission;

17 (3) the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission;

18 (4) the attorney general; or

19 (5) the insurance fraud unit of the Texas Department
20 of Insurance; ~~or~~

21 (6) the comptroller; or

22 (7) the Health and Human Services Commission's office
23 of inspector general.

24 SECTION 5. (a) The classification officer in the office of
25 the state auditor shall classify the position of commissioned peace
26 officer employed as an investigator by the Health and Human
27 Services Commission's office of inspector general as a Schedule C

1 position under the position classification plan maintained under
2 Chapter 654, Government Code.

3 (b) The change made by the classification officer as
4 required by this section applies beginning with the state fiscal
5 biennium beginning September 1, 2025.

6 (c) This section expires September 1, 2027.

7 SECTION 6. Section 661.918(a), Government Code, as amended
8 by this Act, applies only to an injury that occurs on or after the
9 effective date of this Act.

10 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.