

**SUBJECT:** Salary changes for attorney general's commissioned peace officers

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 21 ayes — Pitts, Sylvester Turner, Ashby, Bell, G. Bonnen, Carter, Crownover, Darby, Gonzales, Hughes, S. King, Longoria, Muñoz, Orr, Otto, Patrick, Perry, Price, Raney, Ratliff, Zerwas

0 nays

6 absent — S. Davis, Dukes, Giddings, Howard, Márquez, McClendon

**WITNESSES:** For — Chris Jones, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT); Robert Sunley, Texas Attorney General's Peace Officer Association; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Kevin Cooper, Ratliff Company; Cody Smirl, Texas Attorney General's Peace Officer Association)

Against — None

On — Shea Guinn, Game Warden Peace Officers' Association; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Erin Hodges, Office of the Attorney General)

**DIGEST:** CSHB 2253 would amend Government Code, sec. 402.009 to require a commissioned peace officer working as an investigator in the attorney general's office be compensated according to Schedule C of the position classification salary schedule prescribed by the General Appropriations Act.

The bill also would amend Government Code, sec. 659.301(5) to add a commissioned peace officer working as an investigator in the attorney general's office to the list of law enforcement officers who qualify for hazardous duty pay.

A temporary provision in the bill that would expire September 1, 2015 would require the state auditor's classification officer to classify the position of commissioned peace officer working as an investigator in the attorney general's office as a Schedule C position under the Texas

Position Classification Plan, 1961. The reclassification would apply in the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2013.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

CSHB 2253 appropriately would compensate commissioned peace officers who work for the attorney general's office by placing their pay in line with the salaries that other state law enforcement officers earn. From catching dangerous fugitives and apprehending child predators who stalk their victims online to rooting out Medicaid fraud, these peace officers perform important tasks for the people of Texas yet are paid through a salary schedule that, on average, pays them less than other law enforcement officers who serve Texas. The bill would compensate the attorney general's commissioned peace officers with the same salary structure used for law enforcement officers in the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Criminal Justice, Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. It also would allow them to earn hazard pay. This bill would demonstrate to the important investigators in the attorney general's office that the state values their service and would help retain well trained law enforcement officers.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

While the bill has a worthy objective, the LBB's fiscal note indicates a cost from the bill for fiscal 2014-15 of about \$2.2 million, which are resources that could be used to fund other important state priorities.