

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R6338 HLT-F

S.B. 751
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AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Under current law, law enforcement officers and custodial officers are eligible for state retirement and disability after 20 years. This benefit was extended in order to compensate officers for the dangerous nature of their jobs.

As proposed, S.B. 751 extends this benefit by giving these special disability and retirement benefits to rescue specialists. Rescue specialists are state-employed firefighters who work for the Texas Adjutant General's Office and fight aircraft fires at a Texas National Guard installation. This bill brings the benefits available to rescue specialist firefighters in line with all other firefighters in the state.

This bill also extends to rescue specialists the same disability benefits that are currently available to law enforcement officers and custodial officers, and this benefit cannot be less than half their normal pay, regardless of years of service. It also extends to rescue specialists the death benefit due to law enforcement and custodial officers with 20 or more years of service.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 811.001, Government Code, by adding Subdivision (13-a), to define "rescue specialist."

SECTION 2. Amends the heading to Section 814.107, Government Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 814.107. SERVICE RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PEACE OFFICERS AND RESCUE SPECIALISTS.

SECTION 3. Amends Sections 814.107(a)-(c) and (e) and (g), Government Code, to provide that a member who has at least 20 years of service credit as a law enforcement officer, custodial officer, or rescue specialist, is eligible to retire regardless of age and receive a standard service retirement annuity in an amount and to be funded as provided by this section. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 4. Amends the heading to Section 814.207, Government Code, as follows:

Sec. 814.207. DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PEACE OFFICERS AND RESCUE SPECIALISTS.

SECTION 5. Amends Sections 814.207(a)-(d), Government Code, to provide that an annuity payable for an occupied disability resulting from a risk to which law enforcement officers, custodial officers, or rescue specialists are exposed is payable under certain terms and conditions. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 6. Amends Section 814.305, Government Code, as follows:

Sec. 814.305. ANNUITY FOR SURVIVOR OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CUSTODIAL OFFICER OR RESCUE SPECIALIST. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 7. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2005.