

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R6836 JMM-D

S.B. 1324
By: Gallegos
Human Services
4/19/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, in instances of declared disaster when search and rescue teams are needed to provide volunteer services, a vast majority of team members are provided by local political subdivisions. Such individuals are considered to be state volunteers because local political subdivisions continue to pay team member salaries and the salaries of the people who must be called in to replace place them at the local level. Local political subdivisions are concerned about having to pay workers' compensation to employees who are injured when providing volunteer services in times of declared disaster. This bill would entitle a person who performs volunteer services for the state in a declared disaster under the direction of an officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state to workers' compensation benefits for injuries sustained by the person in the course of providing such services.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1324 sets forth eligibility criteria for workers' compensation benefits for certain persons who provide volunteer services in a declared emergency.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 501B, Labor Code, by adding Section 501.026, as follows:

Sec. 501.026. COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN SERVICES PROVIDED BY VOLUNTEERS. Defines "disaster." Entitles a person who performs volunteer services for the state in a declared disaster, under the direction of an officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision, to benefits under this chapter only for injuries sustained in the course of providing services while a state of disaster may reasonably be considered to be in existence.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.