

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
785354 KEG-F

S.B. 1188
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Under current law, Texas lacks a provision that provides for supplemental pay for a Department of Public Safety (DPS) officer who is proficient in a second language. Presently, numerous ethnic groups live in Texas and an officer's proficiency in a secondary language can be vital in volatile situation. Furthermore, the ability of a DPS law enforcement agent to speak a second language is crucial because Texas borders Mexico. As proposed, S.B. 1188 provides for supplemental pay for DPS officers who are proficient in a second language.

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 the heading to Section 411.016, Government Code, to read as follows:

Sec. 411.016. SUPPLEMENTAL PAY FOR OVERTIME HOURS WORKED OR PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 411A, Governmental Code, by adding Section 411.0161, as follows:

Sec. 411.0161. SUPPLEMENTAL PAY FOR PROFICIENCY IN SECOND LANGUAGE. (a) Authorizes the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to pay a supplement in the amount of \$100 a month to an officer who is proficient in both English and a second language, if the second language is the predominant language used in and around the area where the commissioned officer is stationed to perform the officer's duties as a peace officer and the commissioned officer is able to demonstrate proficiency in the second language by reading, writing, and demonstrating conversation skills in the second language.

(b) Provides that the supplemental pay under this section is in addition to an officer's regular salary.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2003.