

## CHAPTER 374

## H.B. No. 1046

An Act relating to assignment pay for fire fighters and police officers serving as bilingual personnel in certain cities.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

**SECTION 1.** Section 8B(b), Chapter 325, Acts of the 50th Legislature, Regular Session, 1947 (Article 1269m, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Subdivision (6) to read as follows:

(6) "Bilingual personnel" means a member of the fire or police department who in the performance of the member's duties is capable of effectively translating orally a language other than English into English, and when necessary, effectively translating the language into written English.

**SECTION 2.** Section 8B, Chapter 325, Acts of the 50th Legislature, Regular Session, 1947 (Article 1269m, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) In any city having a population of 1,500,000 or more according to the most recent federal census, the city council or legislative body may authorize assignment pay for bilingual personnel performing specialized functions as interpreters or translators in their respective departments. The assignment pay is in an amount and payable under conditions set by ordinance. The assignment pay shall be in addition to the regular pay received by members of the fire or police department. If the ordinance applies equally to all persons meeting criteria established by the ordinance, the ordinance may provide for payment to each fire fighter or police officer who meets testing or other certification criteria for an assignment, or the ordinance may set criteria that will determine the foreign languages in which a person must be fluent or other criteria for eligibility. The ordinance may provide for different rates of pay according to a person's capability and may allow more pay to those members who are capable of translating orally and into written English. The chiefs of the fire and police departments are not eligible for the assignment pay authorized by this subsection.

**SECTION 3.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 4, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 123, Nays 2; passed by the Senate on May 15, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 10, 1985

Effective: Immediately