

CHAPTER 631

S.B. No. 1132

AN ACT

relating to payment of death benefits to certain peace officers of the State of Texas.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12.202, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:
Sec. 12.202. OPERATION GAME THIEF COMMITTEE. (a) The director shall appoint an Operation Game Thief Committee composed of nine members to administer the operation game thief fund and to make reward payments *and death benefit payments* from that fund. The director shall appoint persons who are not employees of the department and who have a demonstrated interest in game and fish conservation. The director may consider the recommendations or nominations of any club or association. The director shall designate one of the members as chairman of the committee. The director or an employee designated by the director for that purpose shall serve as secretary to the committee. A member of the committee serves without compensation.

(b) Each member of the committee serves a term of six years. The terms of one-third of the members expire on January 31 of each odd-numbered year. The director may reappoint members.

(c) The committee shall meet at least two times each calendar year at the department's office in Austin. Five committee members must be present for approval of disbursement of rewards to eligible applicants *and death benefit payments to eligible recipients.*

SECTION 2. Section 12.204, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12.204. REWARDS; PAYMENTS. No amount in excess of that on deposit in the operation game thief fund is payable as a reward under this section *or as a death benefit payment under Section 12.206 of this code.* No reward may be granted to a person, or an immediate family member of a person, who is a peace officer, deputy game warden, prosecutor, employee of the department, or member of the judiciary.

SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 12, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 12.206 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.206. PAYMENT OF DEATH BENEFITS. The committee may use the operation game thief fund to supplement any death benefits received by the families of peace officers employed by the department who are killed in the line of duty. The committee shall adopt guidelines for the payment of death benefits under this section.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect according to its terms September 1, 1993.

SECTION 5. 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.

Passed the Senate on April 30, 1993, by a viva-voce vote; May 23, 1993, Senate refused to concur in House amendment and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 24, 1993, House granted request of the Senate; May 28, 1993, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by a viva-voce vote; passed the House, with amendment, on May 21, 1993, by a non-record vote; May 24, 1993, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 28, 1993, House adopted Conference Committee Report by a non-record vote.

Approved June 12, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.