

CHAPTER 365

H.B. No. 2109

AN ACT

relating to the legislative leave taken by certain fire fighters or police officers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22b, Chapter 325, Acts of the 50th Legislature, Regular Session, 1947 (Article 1269m, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a) In any city having a population of 1,500,000 or more according to the most recent federal census, a fire fighter or police officer is entitled to legislative leave without pay to appear before or to petition a *governmental body* ~~[the state legislature]~~ during any regular or special ~~[legislative]~~ session of that body as prescribed by this section.

(b) To be eligible for legislative leave, a fire fighter or police officer must submit a written application to the city not later than the 30th ~~[60th]~~ day before the date on which the fire fighter or police officer intends to begin the legislative leave ~~[convening of the legislative session that the fire fighter or police officer intends to appear before or to petition]~~. The application must include provisions stating the length of the requested leave and a statement that the fire fighter or police officer is willing to reimburse the city for any wages, pension, or other costs the city will incur as a result of the leave. The length of the requested leave may not exceed the length of the ~~[legislative]~~ session.

(g) *Legislative leave granted under this Act to a fire fighter or police officer for the purpose of attending a session of the Congress of the United States shall be granted for a period not to exceed 30 percent of the applicant's total annual working days per year during each year in which leave is requested.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1987.

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.

Passed by the House on May 5, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on May 28, 1987, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 11, 1987.

Effective Sept. 1, 1987.