

SUBJECT: Oil field theft investigators retired as peace officers

COMMITTEE: Pensions and Investments — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 5 ayes — Telford, Johnson, Averitt, Rangel, Willis
0 nays
4 absent — Berlanga, Haggerty, McCall, Wilson

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — None
On — William S. Nail, Employees Retirement System

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 814.104(b) allows members of the Employees Retirement System (ERS) to retire at age 55 with a supplemental benefit if they have 10 years service as a commissioned peace officer in the Department of Public Safety, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the State Purchasing and General Services Commission Capitol Area Security Force or the Parks and Wildlife Department, or as a custodial officer.

DIGEST: CSHB 384 would include employees of the Texas Railroad Commission who are licensed by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) and have served at least five years in the oil field theft detection division in the special provision for commissioned-officer retirement with 10 years service at age 55. The bill would take effect September 1, 1995.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSHB 384 would allow a few veteran investigators who are employed by the Texas Railroad Commission to fight crime in the oil fields and are licensed by TCLEOSE to have the same retirement eligibility standards and supplemental benefits as other peace officers. The bill would have no affect on the actuarial soundness of the ERS and would offer these few people retirement opportunities they deserve.

OPPONENTS No apparent opposition
SAY:

NOTES: The committee substitute narrowed the scope of the bill to cover
TCLEOSE-licensed oil field theft investigators with at least five years
service. The original version would have approved to commissioned
Railroad Commission peace officers engaged in criminal investigations.