

SUBJECT: Granting DPS troopers compensatory time for working on weekend holidays

COMMITTEE: Appropriations — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 21 ayes — Junell, West, Coleman, Delisi, Gallego, Glaze, Hamric, Heflin, P. Moreno, Puente, Allen, Eiland, Farrar, Flores, Hochberg, Janek, T. King, McReynolds, Pickett, Pitts, Smith

0 nays

6 absent — Gutierrez, Maxey, Mowery, S. Turner, Giddings, Luna

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 20 — 30-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Government Code, sec. 662.005 entitles a state employee to receive a paid day off from work for a state or national holiday that does not fall on a Saturday or Sunday. Sec. 662.007 entitles a state employee to compensatory time off during the 12 months after the holiday if the employee works on a state or national holiday that does not fall on a Saturday or Sunday.

DIGEST: CSSB 609 would entitle a Department of Public Safety (DPS) peace officer who is required to work on a state or national holiday that fell on a Saturday or Sunday to take compensatory time off at the rate of one hour per hour worked.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2001.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSSB 609 is necessary, because unlike most state employees, most DPS peace officers work on Saturdays and Sundays. Under current law, however, compensatory time only is given to state employees for state and national holidays that fall on a week day. Those troopers who work on weekend holidays do not receive compensatory time. A trooper who must work a holiday such as Christmas should be allowed to take another day off to spend with his or her family. This bill would give only compensatory time to these troopers, not paid overtime. The fiscal note indicates only minimal fiscal impact on the state from this change.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

There are potentially four national holidays and seven state holidays that could fall on a weekend. Every compensatory day that an officer takes for working on one of those days would cost the state.

NOTES:

The committee substitute restricted compensatory time for weekend state and national holidays to DPS troopers rather than all state employees who are peace officers.