

**SUBJECT:** Longevity pay for sheriff department personnel in Zapata County

**COMMITTEE:** County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Lewis, W. Smith, Casteel, Farabee, Flynn, Olivo, Quintanilla  
0 nays  
2 absent — Chisum, Farrar

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 15 — 31-0, on the Local and Uncontested Calendar

**WITNESSES:** No public hearing

**BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code, ch. 152 governs the amount of compensation, expenses, and allowances for county officers and employees. Sec. 152.071 requires a county with a population greater than 75,000 to classify the positions, specify the duties, and prescribe the salary for each position in the county sheriff's department. Sec. 152.072 allows voters in a county with a population over 25,000 to petition the commissioners court raise the salaries of the sheriff's department's members. Sec. 152.074 requires a commissioners court of a county of more than 150,000 to provide, in addition to regular compensation, longevity pay of a least \$5 a month for each year of service, up to and including 25 years, for each commissioned deputy of the sheriff's department.

**DIGEST:** SB 411 would allow a county government in a county that had a population of more than 7,500, was located on an international boundary, and contained no incorporated territory (Zapata County), to classify positions, specify the duties, and prescribe the salary for each position in the county's sheriff's department. The government of this county could petition its commissioners court to increase the minimum salary of each member of its sheriff's department. It also could provide longevity pay for each commissioned deputy of its sheriff's department. If the county opted to provide longevity pay, the pay would have to be no less than \$5 a month for each year of service in the department, up to and including 25 years.

SB 411  
House Research Organization  
page 2

The bill would take effect September 1, 2003.