

- SUBJECT:** Volunteer coverage of injured municipal civil servants.
- COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Alvarado, Hunter, R. Anderson, Bernal, Elkins, Schaefer, M. White
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Rafael Torres, Texas State Association of Fire Fighters; (*Registered, but did not testify:* David Crow, Arlington Professional Fire Fighters; Chris Jones, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; David Riggs, Garland Fire Fighters Association; Sean Dailey, Houston Professional Firefighters Association; Johnny Villarreal, Houston Professional Firefighters Association; Aidan Alvarado, Laredo Fire Fighters Association; Glenn Deshields, Texas State Association of Fire Fighters)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code, sec. 143.073(d) permits a firefighter or police officer injured off duty to use all available sick leave, vacation time, and other accumulated time before being put on temporary leave. Sec. 143.073(e) permits a firefighter or police officer to volunteer to complete the work of an injured firefighter or police officer until the injured party returns to work.
- Firefighters and police officers who must take time off due to injuries leave departments short-staffed, and other workers must fill in for them using overtime, which is a considerable cost for departments. Permitting firefighters and police officers to volunteer for those injured, whether the injury occurred on-duty or off-duty, could save costs.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1790 would prohibit a municipality from requiring a firefighter or police officer temporarily disabled due to an injury sustained off-duty from using sick leave, vacation time, or other accumulated time or from

placing the injured party on temporary leave if another firefighter or police officer volunteered to take the place of the injured firefighter or police officer until the injured party returned to work.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2015.