

- SUBJECT:** Extending state death benefits to certain Texas military forces members
- COMMITTEE:** Appropriations — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 23 ayes — Zerwas, Longoria, C. Bell, G. Bonnen, Buckley, Capriglione, Cortez, S. Davis, M. González, Hefner, Howard, Jarvis Johnson, Miller, Muñoz, Schaefer, Sherman, Smith, Stucky, Toth, J. Turner, VanDeaver, Walle, Wilson
- 0 nays
- 4 absent — Minjarez, Rose, Sheffield, Wu
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — None
- On — Ranada Williams, Texas Military Department; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Greg Cyrier, Texas Military Department)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code ch. 615 makes certain survivors of certain law enforcement officers, firefighters, and others who died in the line of duty eligible for state assistance. Sec. 615.022 provides for the payment of \$500,000 by the state to an eligible surviving spouse or other survivors of the deceased individual.
- Government Code sec. 437.001 defines a member of the Texas military forces as a member or former member of the Texas National Guard, the Texas State Guard, or any other military force organized under state law. "State active duty" is defined as the performance of a military or emergency service for Texas at the call of the governor or the governor's designee.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1618 would entitle eligible survivors of members of the Texas military forces who were on state active duty to receive state death benefits, provided that these survivors were not otherwise eligible under

federal law to receive a payment related to that duty.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only in relation to deaths that occurred on or after the effective date of the bill.