

SUBJECT: Considering military service in law enforcement proficiency certification

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Nevárez, Paul, Burns, Calanni, Clardy, Goodwin, Israel, Lang, Tinderholt

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Jason Bridges, Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rita Ostrander, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; Stephanie Stephens, Nacogdoches County Attorney; AJ Louderback, Sheriffs Association of Texas; Noel Johnson, Texas Municipal Police Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michael Antu, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement)

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code sec. 1701.402 requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to issue proficiency certificates to law enforcement officers based on training, education, and experience.

DIGEST: HB 971 would require the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to adopt rules allowing law enforcement officers who served in the military to receive credit toward a proficiency certificate based on their military service.

TCOLE would adopt necessary rules to implement this provision as soon as practicable after the effective date of the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.