

SUBJECT: Allowing honorably retired peace officers to purchase uniforms

COMMITTEE: State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Paddie, Hernandez, Deshotel, Harless, Howard, Hunter, P. King, Lucio, Metcalf, Raymond, Shaheen, Slawson

0 nays

1 absent — Smithee

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Mark Terry, TEPSA; Dallas Reed, Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA); Frank Holman; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

DIGEST HB 315 would authorize an individual to purchase a uniform from a state agency if:

- the individual was a peace officer commissioned by the agency;
- the individual was honorably retired from the agency; and
- the uniform previously had been issued to the individual by the agency.

A state agency would be required to establish the amount, which could not exceed fair market value, for which a uniform could be purchased. An individual who purchased a uniform could be buried in it.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 315 would give commissioned peace officers who were honorably retired from state agencies the opportunity to purchase and be buried in their uniforms. It is important to many retired officers that they be buried in their uniform, and they deserve the chance for this final recognition of their service. Under current law, however, some peace officers might not

have the opportunity to be buried in uniform if state agencies do not provide uniforms after an officer's retirement. HB 315 would give these officers a way to purchase uniforms, ensuring that those who wanted a uniform were able to acquire one.

There would be no cost to the state because the uniforms would be offered for purchase at market value, although an agency could provide them for free or at a reduced cost if it chose to do so. The bill also would allow an agency to provide the current uniform worn by commissioned peace officers of the agency and would not require that the retired officer be issued a uniform that he or she actually wore while serving.

**CRITICS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.