

**SUBJECT:** Reclassifying compensation and leave for certain peace officers

**COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security & Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Guillen, J. Johnson, Bowers, Dorazio, Harless, Holland, Troxclair

0 nays

2 absent — Canales, Goodwin

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage (April 6) — 31 - 0

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Thomas Villarreal, Austin Police Association; Chris Jones, Jennifer Szimanski, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; Ky Ash, Department of Public Safety Officers Association; Joshua Normand, Harris County Deputies' Organization Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #39; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; Anthony Kivela, Houston Police Retired Officers Association; Joe Morris, Texas Game Warden Peace Officers Association; Mitch Landry, Texas Municipal Police Association; AJ Louderback, Texas Sheriffs Regional Alliance)

Against — None

On — Phillip Ashley, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (*Registered, but did not testify*: James Harris, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts)

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that reclassifying the compensation for peace officers commissioned by the comptroller in accordance with the Schedule C rather than Schedule B salary group assignment would provide salary parity to similar positions at other state agencies.

**DIGEST:** SB 1237 would require the comptroller of public accounts to ensure that peace officers commissioned by the comptroller were compensated

according to Schedule C of the position classification salary schedule prescribed by the General Appropriations Act.

A peace officer commissioned by the comptroller as a law enforcement officer or agent would be eligible for injury leave without a deduction in salary and without being required to use compensatory time or other leave for an injury sustained due to the nature of the officer's duties under certain conditions that occurred on or after the effective date of the bill.

The classification officer in the state auditor's office would be required to classify the position of a commissioned peace officer employed by the comptroller as a Schedule C position. The change would apply beginning September 1, 2023.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

**NOTES:**

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of \$1,527,230 through the biennium ending August 21, 2025.