

SUBJECT: Adopting a legislative leave policy for certain peace officers

COMMITTEE: Culture, Recreation & Tourism — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Ashby, Martinez, Flores, Holland, Morrison, Troxclair
0 nays
3 absent — Bailes, Collier, Garcia

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (March 9) — 31 - 0

WITNESSES: None (*considered in a formal meeting on April 14*)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that allowing a peace officer commissioned by the Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) s to voluntarily transfer up to eight hours of compensatory time or annual leave per year to a legislative leave pool would give these officers the same legislative leave as state troopers.

DIGEST: SB 922 would require the executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to allow a peace officer commissioned by TPWD to voluntarily transfer up to eight hours of earned compensatory time or annual leave per year to a legislative leave pool.

The director or the director’s designee would administer the legislative leave pool and credit the pool with the amount of time contributed by the peace officer. The transfer would be conducted as though the peace officer had used the time for personal purposes, and would be deducted accordingly.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission (TPWC) would be required to adopt rules and prescribe procedures related to the operation of the legislative leave pool. A peace officer commissioned by TPWD would only be entitled to use time contributed to the legislative leave pool if the peace officer used the time on behalf of a law enforcement association

that was related to the peace officer's employment with TPWD, that had at least 150 active or retired members, and that was governed by a board of directors. The director, or the director's designee, could transfer time from the pool to the peace officer.

A peace officer commissioned by TPWD would not be permitted to draw more than 80 hours from the pool in a 160-hour work cycle, or draw more than 480 hours from the pool in a fiscal year. A peace officer commissioned by TPWD would have to use time from the legislative leave pool in accordance with rules adopted by TPWC.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.