

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.S.B. 1948
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Intergovernmental Relations
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Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Under current law, a part-time fire protection employee is prohibited from working more than 500 hours a year for an employing fire department in duties related to fire suppression. However, this ceiling is too restrictive to meet the fire protection needs in some home-rule cities. The City of Stafford is a small home-rule city in Fort Bend County, adjacent to the border of Harris County, and within Senate District 13. As a small city, Stafford depends on part-time fire protection employees, but has relatively large fire protection needs for a small city due to being a densely developed area. In order meet its fire protection needs, Stafford needs more flexibility in how it handles the schedules of its part-time fire protection employees.

C.S.S.B. 1948 authorizes a fire department to compensate, reimburse, or provide benefits in a calendar year to a person who has been designated as an auxiliary fire fighter under Section 419.0322(b) in an amount not to exceed twice the amount received by a person whose salary is equal to the federal minimum wage and who works 2,080 hours in the calendar year if the fire department has fewer than five full-time fire fighters and is located in a certain municipality.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter B, Chapter 419, Government Code, by adding Section 419.0323, as follows:

Sec. 419.0323. COMPENSATION OF AUXILIARY FIRE FIGHTERS IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS. Authorizes a fire department to compensate, reimburse, or provide benefits in a calendar year to a person who has been designated as an auxiliary fire fighter under Section 419.0322(b) in an amount not to exceed twice the amount received by a person whose salary is equal to the federal minimum wage and who works 2,080 hours in the calendar year if the fire department has fewer than five full-time fire fighters and is located in a certain municipality, notwithstanding Section 419.0322(c) or any other law.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2007.