

- SUBJECT:** Designating fire marshals, inspectors, and investigators as peace officers
- COMMITTEE:** Public Safety — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Merritt, Frost, Driver, P. King, Mallory Caraway, Rodriguez, Vo  
0 nays  
2 absent — Burnam, Lewis
- WITNESSES:** For — Joseph Gonzalez, Denton County Emergency Services, Texas Fire Marshal's Association, State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas; Shawn Scott, Parker County Fire Marshal's Office; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Dale Little, Midland County; Mike Montgomery, Harris County Fire Marshal's Office; Randy Renois, Tarrant County Fire Marshal's Office)  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 2.12 lists who are considered peace officers in Texas. Peace officers have the authority to conduct searches, make arrests and prevent crimes or suppress a crime without a warrant and carry a deadly weapon. Peace officers must meet certain requirements for certification established by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE).
- DIGEST:** HB 3201 would amend Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 2.12 to include fire marshals and their inspectors, investigators, or other officers as peace officers.  
  
The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.