

- SUBJECT:** Establishing a communications coordination group for emergencies
- COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Corte, Vaught, Chavez, Edwards, Farias, Maldonado, Ortiz, C. Turner
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Pickett
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 23 — 30-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- DIGEST:** CSSB 936 would establish a communications coordination group charged with facilitating interagency coordination on providing communications support to joint, interagency, and intergovernmental task forces during an emergency. The group's members would be selected by the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) and would include representatives from:
- the Texas military forces;
 - the Department of Public Safety;
 - the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
 - other federal agencies responsible for coordinating federal telecommunications support and establishing temporary communications systems during an emergency;
 - the telecommunications industry, including cable service providers;
 - electric utilities;
 - gas utilities;
 - the National Guard's Joint Continental United States Communications Support Environment;
 - the National Guard Bureau;
 - amateur radio operator groups;
 - the Texas Forest Service;
 - the Texas Department of Transportation;

- the General Land Office;
- the Texas A&M University Engineering Extension Service;
- the Public Utility Commission;
- the Railroad Commission;
- the Department of State Health Services;
- the state judicial branch;
- the Texas Association of Regional Councils;
- the Texas Wing of the United States Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol;
- each trauma service area regional advisory council;
- state agencies, counties, and municipalities affected by the emergency, and;
- any other agency determined by the GDEM.

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.

NOTES:

The committee substitute differs from the Senate-passed version of the bill by including representatives from the electric and gas utilities, the Public Utility Commission, and each trauma service area regional advisory council in the communications coordination group.