

SUBJECT: Governing uses of contact information in emergency warning systems

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Nevárez, Paul, Burns, Calanni, Clardy, Goodwin, Israel, Lang, Tinderholt

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Ken DeMerchant, Fort Bend County (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brie Franco, City of Austin; Randy Cain, City of Dallas; Gabriela Villareal, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; Deece Eckstein, Travis County Commissioners Court)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tammy Embrey, City of Corpus Christi)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sheri Gipson, Texas Department of Public Safety)

DIGEST: CSHB 3022 would establish a procedure by which a person could opt in to an emergency warning notification system for the city or county in which they reside.

The bill would require DPS to include space on each application for an original or renewal driver's license that allowed the applicant to indicate whether that person consented to participate in the emergency warning system operated by the person's political subdivision and to disclose the person's contact information to the same political subdivision.

It would require DPS to share the person's contact information, including a telephone number, mobile telephone number or e-mail address, with the political subdivision if the person consented and if the political subdivision operated an emergency warning system and had contracted with the department for the disclosure of contact information.

CSHB 3022 would prohibit the municipality or county from using or disclosing contact information for any purpose other than enrolling a person in an emergency warning system and issuing warnings to the person through the system.

The bill would allow a person who participated in a political subdivision's early warning system to request removal from that system by submitting a written request for removal to that political subdivision. The political subdivision would have to remove the participant's contact information from the system and cease issuing emergency warnings to that person on receipt of such a request.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 3022 would grant cities and counties access to their residents' contact information so that people could be kept informed in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency. The bill contains protections to ensure that individuals would have ultimate control over their information.

Hurricane Harvey exposed limitations in the emergency warning systems used by many cities and counties in Texas. People frequently received information that was incorrect, was no longer timely, or was inapplicable to them. Emergency warning systems can tailor emergency messages to the needs of specific individuals, but cities and counties that have installed such systems need to know where to send these messages. Political subdivisions have few avenues to obtain this information, just as individuals have few opportunities to participate in an early warning system. By linking the application of a driver's license to the collection of information for an early warning system, CSHB 3022 would provide cities, counties and individuals with the tools necessary to keep people informed during emergency situations.

The bill would allow individuals to retain complete control over their information. The process of applying for or renewing a driver's license would allow them to choose whether to share their information for the

purposes of the emergency warning system program, and they could remove their information from the rolls at any time.

The bill would not require political subdivisions to have an emergency warning system, nor would it contain any provisions for state funds. As a result, the bill would represent neither an unfunded mandate nor a burden on the state.

CSHB 3022 would help cities and counties obtain the information necessary to keep people safe during difficult and chaotic situations.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No concerns identified.