

- SUBJECT:** Providing funds for interoperable emergency radio infrastructure
- COMMITTEE:** Appropriations — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 20 ayes — Zerwas, C. Bell, Buckley, Capriglione, Cortez, S. Davis, Howard, Miller, Minjarez, Muñoz, Rose, Schaefer, Sheffield, Sherman, Smith, Stucky, Toth, J. Turner, VanDeaver, Wilson
- 0 nays
- 7 absent — Longoria, G. Bonnen, M. González, Hefner, Jarvis Johnson, Walle, Wu
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jim Baxa)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management and Texas Emergency Management Council)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 411.403 establishes the emergency radio infrastructure account. The account is funded by criminal court fees and can only be used for specific purposes, including costs associated with planning, developing, and maintaining emergency radio infrastructure.
- Interested parties have noted that the emergency radio infrastructure account has unappropriated funds that could be used by the state to finish building its proposed emergency interoperable communications network.
- DIGEST:** HB 3397 would appropriate \$23 million from the emergency radio infrastructure account in the general revenue fund to the Texas Division of Emergency Management for the fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2021. Money appropriated to the division would have to be used to plan, develop, and provide an interoperable statewide emergency radio infrastructure.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, HB 3397 would have a negative impact of \$23 million in general revenue related funds available for certification in the biennium ending August 31, 2021.