

# Governing uses of contact information in emergency warning systems

HB 3022 by Miller (Kolkhorst)

## Digest

HB 3022 would have required the Department of Public Safety to include space on each application for an original or renewal driver's license that allowed an applicant to indicate whether the person consented to participate in the emergency warning system operated by the city or county where the person resided and to the disclosure of the person's contact information to the political subdivision. The bill would have prohibited a city or county from using or disclosing contact information for any purpose other than an emergency warning system. A person who participated in a warning system would have been allowed to request removal from the system, and the political subdivision would have had to remove the person's contact information from the system on receipt of such a request.

## Governor's reason for veto

"House Bill 3022 would require the Texas Department of Public Safety to capture the contact information of driver's license applicants who consent to being part of local emergency warning systems, and to work with local governments on creating those local warning systems. I appreciate the author's good intentions, and I have signed important legislation this session that will help Texans prepare for disasters. But to ensure that the local emergency warning systems use data that is accurate, updated, and used appropriately, local governments — not the State — should be in charge of gathering and managing this type of data."

## Response

**Rep. Rick Miller**, the bill's author, said: "HB 3022 passed unanimously through the House and the Senate during the 86th legislative session. This bill was brought to me by one of my county commissioners in response to what happened to our district during Hurricane Harvey.

HB 3022 would have required the Texas Department of Public Safety to capture the contact information of driver's license applicants who consented to being part of local emergency warning systems, and to work with local governments on creating the databases for their local warning systems. In his veto statement, Gov. Abbott says, 'to ensure that the local emergency warning systems use data that is accurate, updated, and used appropriately, local governments — not the State — should be in charge of gathering and managing this type of data.' However, the reason why I filed this legislation is because local governments are having issues getting Texas citizens to register for their local warning systems. HB 3022 would have streamlined the process of registering and maintaining databases for locally run emergency systems, thus making it easier to reach constituents during dangerous natural disasters. I would have been more than happy to work with the governor's office on this important piece of legislation for not only my district, but the countless others who have been impacted by natural disasters. No one from the governor's office ever raised any objection to the bill until the veto, which is unfortunate for the many constituents who may have been positively impacted by this legislation."

**Sen. Lois Kolkhorst**, the Senate sponsor, had no comment on the veto.

## Notes

The HRO analysis of [HB 3022](#) appeared in Part One of the April 10 *Daily Floor Report*.