Amend HB 1205 on page 3 as follows, Sec. 23.003. EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN SMALL EMPLOYERS. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), this chapter does not apply to an employer for whom an absence to respond to an emergency by an employee who is a volunteer emergency responder would result in hardship by reducing the employer's workforce by 50 percent.

(b) An employer described by Subsection (a) may permit an employee to provide services as a volunteer emergency responder. An employer who elects under this subsection to permit an employee to provide services as a volunteer responder is subject to this chapter. This chapter does not apply to employers with fewer than 50 employees.