

By: Gallegos

S.B. No. 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to establishment of the Texas Statewide Interoperability  
3 Executive Advisory Council.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 421.095, Government Code, is amended by  
6 adding Subdivisions (3) and (4) to read as follows:

7 (3) "Council" means the Texas Statewide  
8 Interoperability Executive Advisory Council.

9 (4) "Interoperability" means the ability of public  
10 safety service and support providers, including providers of law  
11 enforcement, fire fighting services, emergency medical services,  
12 emergency management, public utilities, and transportation  
13 services, to communicate when necessary with staff from other  
14 responding agencies, and to exchange voice, video, and data  
15 communications on demand, in real time, and when authorized.

16 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 421, Government Code, is  
17 amended by adding Sections 421.0961 and 421.0962 to read as  
18 follows:

19 Sec. 421.0961. TEXAS STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY EXECUTIVE  
20 ADVISORY COUNCIL. (a) The Texas Statewide Interoperability  
21 Executive Advisory Council is created as an advisory committee to  
22 the office of the governor to provide policy level direction and  
23 promote efficient and effective use of resources for matters  
24 related to public safety radio interoperability.

1        (b) The council is composed of the following members  
2 appointed by the governor:

3            (1) one representative from the Texas Department of  
4 Transportation;

5            (2) one representative from the Sheriffs' Association  
6 of Texas;

7            (3) one representative from the Texas Police Chiefs  
8 Association;

9            (4) one representative from the Texas Fire Chiefs  
10 Association;

11           (5) one representative from the Texas Municipal  
12 League;

13           (6) one representative from the Texas Association of  
14 Counties;

15           (7) two representatives from the governor's military  
16 staff or the state military forces;

17           (8) one representative from the Texas Department of  
18 Criminal Justice;

19           (9) one representative from the Department of Public  
20 Safety;

21           (10) one representative from the Department of  
22 Agriculture;

23           (11) one representative from the Parks and Wildlife  
24 Department;

25           (12) one representative from the Health and Human  
26 Services Commission;

27           (13) one representative from a federally recognized

1 Indian tribe with tribal land in this state; and

2 (14) two members of the public.

3 (c) Members of the council serve two-year terms.

4 (d) Members of the council serve without compensation.

5 (e) The governor shall appoint a presiding officer of the  
6 council and the council shall elect other officers it considers  
7 necessary and appropriate. The presiding officer has authority and  
8 is responsible for the affairs of the council.

9 (f) The council shall meet at least four times annually.

10 (g) The council shall appoint subcommittees consistent with  
11 the needs of the council to address:

12 (1) technical support and education issues regarding  
13 public safety wireless radio interoperable communications in this  
14 state;

15 (2) federal, state, and local funding availability;  
16 and

17 (3) outreach and liaison with federal and other state  
18 organizations working on public safety wireless radio  
19 interoperable communications solutions.

20 (h) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the council.

21 Sec. 421.0962. COUNCIL DUTIES. (a) The council shall assist  
22 the office of the governor in developing the strategic plan for  
23 radio interoperable communications for local and private entities.  
24 The council shall promote interagency cooperation and provide  
25 support statewide for efficient and effective use of local and  
26 private resources to achieve public safety wireless radio  
27 interoperable communications for local and private public safety

1 agencies.

2 (b) The council shall:

3 (1) recommend guidelines and standards for operation  
4 for local and private public safety wireless radio interoperable  
5 communications systems in this state;

6 (2) promote coordination and cooperation among local,  
7 state, federal, and tribal public safety agencies in addressing  
8 statewide public safety wireless radio interoperable  
9 communications needs in the state;

10 (3) review priorities for statewide public safety  
11 wireless radio interoperable communications needs and assist users  
12 of the statewide system in the development of projects, plans,  
13 policies, standards, priorities, and guidelines for public safety  
14 wireless radio interoperable communications;

15 (4) develop funding recommendations for short-term  
16 and long-term system maintenance;

17 (5) research best practices of other states; and

18 (6) provide recommendations to the governor and the  
19 legislature, when appropriate, concerning issues related to local  
20 and private statewide public safety wireless radio interoperable  
21 communications in accordance with homeland security presidential  
22 directives.

23 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
24 of this Act, the governor shall appoint members to the Texas  
25 Statewide Interoperability Executive Advisory Council created by  
26 this Act.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.