

1-1 By: Miller of Erath (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.C.R. No. 90
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 28, 2011;
1-3 May 5, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 17, 2011, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 17, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Effective emergency communications are an essential
1-8 component of homeland security, but the federal government has thus
1-9 far failed to implement the Integrated Public Alert and Warning
1-10 System program, launched in 2006 in response to Presidential
1-11 Executive Order 13407, and related measures that are necessary to
1-12 alert the American public in situations of war, terrorist attack,
1-13 natural disaster, or other hazards; and

1-14 WHEREAS, At present, the capacity of the United States to
1-15 issue warnings is supported by the Emergency Alert System and the
1-16 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio
1-17 All-Hazards Network; the EAS is built on a structure conceived in
1-18 the 1950s, when the best available technology for widely
1-19 disseminating emergency alerts was over-the-air broadcasting; NOAA
1-20 Weather Radio broadcasts National Weather Service forecasts and
1-21 all-hazard warnings for natural and man-made events; and

1-22 WHEREAS, Reliance on radio and television to deliver warnings
1-23 fails to take into account the prevalence and sophistication of
1-24 other communications technologies, especially wireless devices and
1-25 satellite solutions; the Integrated Public Alert and Warning
1-26 System, managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is
1-27 intended to modernize and enhance the antiquated Emergency Alert
1-28 System and provide a fully integrated, multimodal "system of
1-29 systems" for warning citizens; and

1-30 WHEREAS, IPAWS has addressed the lack of standards across
1-31 warning devices with the new Common Alerting Protocol, which will
1-32 facilitate the creation of a cohesive alert warning solution, and
1-33 with new alert systems such as the Commercial Mobile Alert System,
1-34 which allows for the mass transmission of text-based alerts to
1-35 mobile devices in targeted geographic areas; even with these
1-36 advancements and with a fully implemented IPAWS, IPAWS as designed
1-37 still falls short of a comprehensive alert warning system since it
1-38 has the same limitations of each existing and proposed system:
1-39 radio, television, and wireless service may not exist in some
1-40 remote geographic areas or may be compromised by natural or
1-41 man-made disasters; today's technology, however, can provide a
1-42 comprehensive alert warning system; and

1-43 WHEREAS, Such technology must be deployed as soon as possible
1-44 in a comprehensive, integrated national alert system, in
1-45 coordination with federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal
1-46 emergency management systems, to ensure that under all conditions,
1-47 at all times, and in all places universal communication is
1-48 available to warn Americans of impending dangers; now, therefore,
1-49 be it

1-50 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
1-51 hereby urge the United States Congress to expedite a solution and
1-52 enact laws that will provide public alert and warning in situations
1-53 of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to
1-54 public safety or the well-being of all people of the United States
1-55 of America; and, be it further

1-56 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby
1-57 respectfully urge the United States Congress to investigate and
1-58 conduct hearings to inventory, evaluate, and assess capabilities
1-59 and integration with the public alert and warning systems of
1-60 federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal public alert and
1-61 warning resources and to establish or adopt common alerting and
1-62 warning protocols, standards, terminology, and operating
1-63 procedures that are effective without the necessity of maintaining
1-64 a database of contact information so as to protect the privacy of

