

By: Springer

H.B. No. 1958

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the licensure or certification of volunteer
3 firefighters and members of industrial emergency response teams.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 419, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 419.910 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 419.910. CERTAIN REGULATION PROHIBITED. (a) In this
8 section:

9 (1) "State agency" has the meaning assigned by Section
10 2103.001.

11 (2) "Volunteer firefighter" means a member of a
12 volunteer fire department who is not:

13 (A) a full-time paid employee; or

14 (B) a part-time fire protection employee
15 described by Section 419.0321.

16 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a state agency may
17 not:

18 (1) require a volunteer firefighter to obtain a
19 license or certification in order to be a volunteer firefighter; or

20 (2) require a member of an industrial emergency
21 response team to obtain a license or certification in order to be a
22 member of an industrial emergency response team.

23 (c) A state agency may require a volunteer firefighter or a
24 member of an industrial emergency response team to possess certain

1 credentials, as determined by the agency, to participate in
2 disaster response or deployments requested by:

3 (1) the Texas A&M Forest Service;

4 (2) the Department of Public Safety; or

5 (3) the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.