86R1498 JG-D

By:  Zaffirini S.B. No. 53

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a request for 9-1-1 service by text message and the provision of available contact information.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 771A, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 771A.002 to read as follows:

Sec. 771A.002.  ACCESS TO 9-1-1 SERVICE BY TEXT MESSAGE; AVAILABLE CONTACT INFORMATION. (a) In this section, "public safety answering point" has the meaning assigned by Section 771.001.

(b)  To the extent practicable and within available resources, a public safety answering point shall receive emergency 9-1-1 communications by calls and text messages.

(c)  In this chapter and Chapters 771 and 772, any reference to a call for emergency services received by a public safety answering point that has implemented a system allowing emergency 9-1-1 communications by text message means a call or text message.

(d)  In this chapter and Chapters 771 and 772, a provision referring to a telephone number associated with a call or text message for emergency services applies only to a call or text message originating from a device associated with a telephone number.

(e)  A provider or user shall provide to the public safety answering point any other relevant and available contact information of a person requesting emergency services using a device not associated with a telephone number.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.