

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

1 information of a person requesting emergency services using a
2 device not associated with a telephone number.

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