

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1656

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: April 14, 2021 8:00 AM

Robert Coleman

Self

Ft Worth, TX

HB 1656

As a licensed insurance adjuster I spent 3 months in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. The Governor and Mayor of New Orleans decided it was a good time to disarm the people in New Orleans. Their intentions were probably good but the outcome was not. As police went door to door confiscating firearms, armed gangs followed robbing helpless residents.

My point is that under no circumstance should our ability to protect ourselves be restricted. All those in control during times of emergency are not always good people. Sometimes money, greed or power causes them to not act in the public's best interest. Well devised limitations must be in place for the common good.

Regards RM Coleman 111

John McFarlen

Self, retired

Abilene, TX

Hey Murphy,

If this bill is saying that the Governor can override the edicts of minions working under his authority, and force them to adhere to the legislated law, I agree. If you are pronouncing a new sovereign lord who can make laws unilaterally that affect I, a man, I disagree. Of course, as the executive, the governor should already have the ability to control people working in the executive. Where does it say he cannot? So perhaps you ARE suggesting that the governor should be able to make unilateral law that affects the population. Which is it?

Perhaps your bill should be about requiring the Governor to abide by the legislated law and at least for a period of time so cooler minds might prevail, force his minions to stop destroying people's lives out of fear of the unknown, recent events as an example.

Respectfully,
John McFarlen

Gregory Romeu

DevilsAdvocateArmory.com

Presidio, TX

Freedom, Liberty and Personal Sovereignty should be the first and foremost protections and delivery of Bills in the Republic Of Texas without question.

There is absolutely no reason to not move forward in the passage of this bill lest there is some sort of diabolical intent to either limit or abrogate the Constitutions of The United States of America, The Republic of Texas and the explicit will of the free people that reside herein. Therefore I request that safeguards be put into place as an over-watch to the thirst of power and arrogance over

Printed on: May 4, 2021 2:25 PM

WE, The People. ALL powers demand checks and balances, therefore should any legislator not see this, there is obviously some schooling on the founding documents and the purposes of their being either elected or appointed to the positions they now hold.

Let's move forward with Freedom, Liberty and Sovereignty of WE, The People and surpass and further action to replace those that are not fully informed of their positions of office or their defined Oaths taken prior to being seated.

Kathy Sahagian, Ms

Self, retired

Austin, TX

A good friend of mine died during that snow storm because of the cheaper equipment chosen. He was Gene Taylor the best piano player I've ever heard. He played with the fabulous thunderbirds and the blasters and guitar with canned heat. He was without power for 5 days and froze to death or has hypothermia then a heart attack. The guy always remembered my birthday. His music always cheered me. He was a great boogie woogie piano player, teacher, music historian and a source of pride for Texas. I've cried of and on over his loss for weeks. I'll never forgive the state of Texas for this. I'll never get over it and can't even imagine how his band mates and family must feel. He had a young cousin who was a musician and really looked up to him. He was the only family member who understood her and a mentor. Your decisions have consequences. Act with some responsibility to the people of your state. Over 100 people died in that storm I hear. I am heartbroken over his loss. He was a good man.

Mimi Barreras, Mrs.

Self - teacher

Magnolia, TX

I regret that I can not be present today to strongly oppose this bill and I am very disturbed that this came up on the radar so quickly and even more disturbed that it is proposed by a "Republican."

This bill entails the worst of what was in the original version of HB3, which I vehemently opposed in testimony in person. HB 1656 gives the Governor the power of law which belongs only to the Legislature. If we have not already seen enough of the massive overreach of government in the past year, this would be ten times worse. This gives the Governor unchecked power, absolute control, the ability to decide what is or is not emergency. Currently Governor Abbott feels he is being gracious to us opening up the state, allowing us to choose whether or not to wear our "face panties" aka masks, allowing churches to meet, children to go to school (sort of), people to choose vaccines or not, but most of us fail to realize these are freedoms we NEVER LOST. We just complied. This bill allows a Governor, any Texas Governor of any party to issue an executive order with the full force of legislative law. This is wrong, a gross imbalance of power and terribly dangerous. We would no longer have the choice of compliance. We could be forced.

Texans are done. This is not California. We will not be told how to breathe or what to breathe through. We will not be kept home to protect a teeny percentage of our population while our economy is shredded destroying many more. We don't stand down. And heaven knows we've already had the total crap beat out of us in the past year by this insanity. No more! There will always be a new crisis, a new emergency. After all, fear is how you control the masses.

Please shut this bill down now. Leave it in committee. Let it die. And while you are at it, take Rep Murphy to task for writing it. This bill was never about freedom or an improvement of emergency management or law. It was about someone who thinks he's being gracious offering freedoms to us, but sneaking this in the back door and Rep Murphy is doing his bidding.

Talitha Powell

None

Houston, TX

Vote NO! The Governor should NOT have unfettered powers. When a "disaster" lingers, the entire Legislature should be called in to a Special Session to represent their constituents.

Printed on: May 4, 2021 2:25 PM

Stephanie Osbahr, Mrs.

Self

Bedias, TX

Please do not pass this bill. This upsets the checks and balances of our government. The power to issue an executive order, proclamation or regulation with the force and effect of law could lead to tyrannical decisions and strip Texans of our freedoms if placed in the wrong hands.

Katrin Young

Myself

Magnolia, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Texas is a conservative state and it does not make sense to give the governor this much power. Calling for an emergency session of legislators in time of pandemic is a reasonable action. The people need to be represented in times of emergency. I cannot fathom how much overreach would happen if the governor has this much power, especially if the elected governor is not a conservative.

Please put this bill to rest.

Tanya Robertson, Senate District 11 SREC

Self

Taylor Lake Village, TX

OPPOSED to HB1656

Texans elect our State Representatives and Senators to reflect the will of their districts while making decisions that will affect them. This bill would strip that representation from them and hand it to the Governor when there are mechanisms that may be used to bring our lawmakers to Austin in order to do the job they were elected to do.

Our Texas founders created a republican form of government that allows our districts to be represented. This bill would transform our government into a monarchy, which violates every thread of our founding.

The problem is when the person who will have sole authority is the one defining under what circumstances he/she will be given that authority, we're asking for trouble.

Teri Horne

Self

Quitman, TX

My name is Teri Horne and I Oppose this bill, the governor should Not be making any EO or mandates Without input from the Legislature

Mark Goloby

TC Technologies

Houston, TX

This is not a good bill for Texas. It grants too much power to the Governor in an emergency that the governor can declare under his own prerogative. This usurps the legislature at a time when we need our representative Republic more than ever.

DO NOT send this bill out of committee

Mark Goloby

Printed on: May 4, 2021 2:25 PM

ANN MACALUSO

Individual citizen

houston, TX

HB1656 is an open invitation to future governors to use any excuse to invoke an emergency--in essence it's a bill to allow the governor to suspend the legislature and the legislature's role to represent their constituents.

Please use your vote to defeat this bill and use any influence you have in this committee not to allow future governors to usurp the laws and Constitution of Texas