

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety
For HB 3981

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 6:47 PM

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Hearing Date: April 11, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

John Douglas, Deputy Fire Marshal
Self
Houston, TX

Support the HB for enhance security for jurisdictions.

Ryan Smith
City of League City
League city, TX

Thank you for your support

Jason Reilly
Self- Deputy Fire Marshal
Elm Mott, TX

I want to express support for this bill. I currently serve as a Deputy Fire Marshal for an incorporated city and this bill would clarify my status in the eyes of the CCP. While the CCP does include arson investigators as peace officers, most of us have many other law enforcement duties beyond arson which include environmental crimes and fire code enforcement. Fire Marshals have the same training and peace officer license as any police officer. We respond to assist our local police departments with 911 calls such as active shooter incidents as well as our primary case load of arson, unlawful burning, criminal mischief, criminal fire code violations, and environmental crimes such as illegal dumping or hazardous materials. This administrative change will not alter the purpose of sworn fire marshals but simply clarifies our status throughout the entirety of our job responsibilities.

Jeff Allen
League City Fire Marshal's Office
League City, TX

My name is Jeff Allen, and I am the Assistant Fire Chief - Fire Marshal for the City of League City. I am writing in support of HB 3981 as this bill clarifies what the Counties and Emergency Service Districts passed several years ago. By approving this legislation, it will allow for uniformity across the fire prevention discipline. Within the Fire Marshal's Office we are regularly dealing with a wide variety of criminal offenses, outside of the adopted city ordinances, to include but not limited to: falsifying government documents, hazardous materials/environmental crimes offenses, fraud etc. This legislation will allow for the more efficient processing of these criminal offenses by allowing the inspections division to be able to process criminal offenses by allowing agencies to carry their law enforcement license. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Jennifer Maldonado, Fire Investigator

Pearland fire

Pearland, TX

In favor of this!

Jennafer Woitena

Self-Law Enforcement

Alvin, TX

As an Officer of almost 19 years who is transitioning to a Municipal Fire Marshals, it is important to me for this to pass.

Aaron Bell, Chief

Self

Iowa Colony, TX

I support this legislation

Stephen Antley

Self - LE officer

League City, TX

I support this resolution

Chris Harrison, Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal

Galveston Fire Department

Galveston, TX

I support this legislation. As a Fire Marshal, our duties include enforcing adopted Fire Codes and other laws pertaining to life safety. Currently, employees of a municipal Fire Marshal department or division may only be licensed as peace officers as members of an arson investigation unit. This limits the ability to licensee members who perform other essential functions like life safety or licensing inspections, environmental crimes, etc.

Additionally, our officers are often trained in multiple disciplines such as emergency medicine, firefighting, hazardous materials, etc. This additional training serves as a force multiplier when responding to an active attack by giving the officer a wide range of knowledge on building construction, emergency entry and exits, fire protection systems, triage of injuries, and much more.

We would appreciate your support to allow us to continue to be a force multiplier against active attacks, as well as enforce the many laws that we do, and do so as peace officers.

Eric Sullivan

Baytown Fire Marshal Office

Baytown, TX

I support this clarification of police officers within our organization.

Richard Allen

Self

League City, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill.

JD Giles, Division Chief
Baytown Fire Department
Baytown, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for HB3981 for Texas. This bill is a crucial step forward in improving the safety of our communities, and it will provide important benefits to fire marshals across the state.

First and foremost, this bill aims to increase the effectiveness of fire safety inspections by ensuring that fire marshals have access to the most up-to-date information and technology. Specifically, the bill mandates the creation of a statewide database of fire safety inspections, which will allow fire marshals to quickly and easily access information about past inspections and any violations or hazards that were identified. This will greatly improve the efficiency of inspections and make it easier for fire marshals to identify potential safety issues before they become major problems.

Additionally, HB3981 includes provisions that will help to standardize fire safety regulations and procedures across the state. This will ensure that fire marshals have a consistent framework to work within, which will make it easier to enforce regulations and hold property owners accountable for maintaining safe buildings. By creating a more uniform approach to fire safety, this bill will help to ensure that all Texans are protected equally, regardless of where they live or work.

Overall, I believe that HB3981 is a critical piece of legislation that will provide important benefits to fire marshals and the communities they serve. By improving the efficiency and effectiveness of fire safety inspections, and standardizing fire safety regulations across the state, this bill will help to ensure that Texans are able to live and work in safe and secure environments.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Division Chief Giles
Baytown Fire Department

Blake Brazzel, EMS Lieutenant
League City Fire Department
League City, TX

I support this legislation.

Robert Calderon, Deputy Fire Marshal
League City Fire Marshal's Office
League City, TX

I have been a Deputy Fire Marshal and was commissioned as a law enforcement officer in 1985. Please consider the proposed Bill for acceptance to create a very functional, necessary and universal atmosphere as it relates to fire investigation.

Best regards

Anthony Zermeno
Self
Alvin, TX

I approve

Lori Allen
Self
League City, TX

Relating to Fire Marshals office

Frederick Spencer
Baytown FMO
Houston, TX

I support this legislation.

Cliff Woitena
Self - Police Officer
Alvin, TX

I support this clarification.

Joe Murray, Director of Fire Safety/Fire Marshal
City of Manvel Fire Marshal's Office
Manvel, TX

As the City of Manvel Director of Fire Safety/Fire Marshal, I am in support of HB3981. With the approval of this house bill, it will allow the municipal fire marshal's office to be consistent with CCP 2.12 related to the County and ESD fire marshal's that was approved a few years ago.

Valerie Salazar
Self
League City, TX

I support allowing municipal fire marshals to also have law enforcement commissioned officers, inspectors, and investigators.

Nicole Smith
Self
League City, TX

I am in support of the clarification on this bill!

Tommy Cones, Fire Marshal
League City Fire Marshal
League City, TX

I support this completely

Rhonda Darrow
Self
League City, TX

I support this bill.

Leonard Darrow, Deputy Chief
League City Fire Marshal's Office
League City, TX

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Albert Cantu, Fire Marshal

City of Iowa Colony

Iowa Colony, TX

As the Fire Marshal of City of Iowa Colony, Texas, I am in support of HB 3981.