

By: Lopez of Bexar

H.B. No. 257

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to emergency warning systems operated by municipalities and counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 418.1103 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.1103. LOCAL EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM. (a) In this section, "contact information" means an individual's telephone number, mobile telephone number, physical address, or e-mail address.

(b) For purposes of operating an emergency warning system for residents of a political subdivision, the political subdivision may contract with the department for disclosure by the department of the contact information of a political subdivision resident who consents to the disclosure for the purpose of participating in the system.

(c) A participant in an emergency warning system described by Subsection (b) may request removal from the system by submitting a written request, including a text message from a cellular telephone or other wireless communication device, for removal to the applicable political subdivision. On receipt of the request, the applicable political subdivision shall remove the participant's contact information from the system and cease issuing emergency warnings to the former participant through the system.

1 (d) A participant in an emergency warning system described
2 by Subsection (b) may elect to receive warning alerts in both
3 English and Spanish.

4 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,
5 is amended by adding Section 521.016 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 521.016. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL EMERGENCY
7 WARNING SYSTEM. (a) In this section, "contact information" has the
8 meaning assigned by Section 418.1103, Government Code.

9 (b) When a person applies for an original or renewal
10 driver's license under this chapter, the person may consent to:

11 (1) participate in an emergency warning system
12 described by Section 418.1103, Government Code; and

13 (2) the disclosure by the department of the person's
14 contact information to the municipality or county, or both, in
15 which the person resides for the purpose of participating in an
16 emergency warning system operated by the municipality or county.

17 (c) The department shall include space on each application
18 for an original or renewal driver's license that allows a person
19 applying for an original or renewal driver's license to indicate
20 whether the person consents to participate in an emergency warning
21 system operated by the municipality or county, or both, in which the
22 person resides and consents to disclosure by the department of the
23 person's contact information to the municipality or county or both.

24 (d) The department shall disclose a person's contact
25 information to a municipality or county for participation in an
26 emergency warning system if:

27 (1) the person indicates the person's consent to

1 participate in an emergency warning system and to the disclosure of
2 the person's contact information under Subsection (b); and

3 (2) the applicable municipality or county:

4 (A) operates an emergency warning system; and

5 (B) has contracted with the department for the
6 disclosure of the person's contact information under Section
7 418.1103, Government Code.

8 (e) Contact information obtained by a municipality or
9 county under this section may not be used or disclosed for any
10 purpose other than enrolling a person in an emergency warning
11 system and issuing warnings to the person through the system.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
13 last day of the legislative session.