

- SUBJECT:** Allowing county fire marshals to train first responders
- COMMITTEE:** County Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Bohac, Anderson, Biedermann, S. Cole, Dominguez, Huberty, Rosenthal, Stickland
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Coleman
- WITNESSES:** For — Ender Reed, Harris County Commissioners Court; (*Registered, but did not testify*): Robert Johnston, Anderson County; TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Bradford Shields, Harris County Commissioners Court; Laurie Christensen, Harris County Fire Marshal's Office; Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Alexis Tatum, Travis County Commissioners Court)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code sec. 352.019(e) allows a county commissioners court to authorize a county fire marshal to provide training programs to firefighting and fire prevention units in the county.
- Government Code sec. 421.095 defines first responder to mean a public safety employee or volunteer whose duties include responding rapidly to an emergency.
- Some have suggested that there is a need for common training in firefighting skills for first responders.
- DIGEST:** HB 3753 would allow a county commissioners court to authorize a county marshal to provide firefighting and fire prevention training to first responders in the county, rather than only firefighters and fire prevention units.

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The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.