

- SUBJECT:** Requiring governmental entity to display emergency notices online
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Paddie, Deshotel, Harless, Howard, Hunter, P. King, Lucio, Metcalf, Raymond, Shaheen, Slawson
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Hernandez, Smithee
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tammy Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 2051.152 as added by Acts 2019, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, ch. 1029, requires a political entity that has the authority to impose a tax and maintains a website to post certain information on the website, including the political subdivision's contact information, its elected officers, and notices about elections and meetings of governmental bodies, among other information.
- Interested parties have noted that recent events, including Winter Storm Uri, have demonstrated the need for clear and effective communication from governmental entities during an emergency. Some have called for these entities to post certain emergency notices and other information on their websites to better assist the public.
- DIGEST:** HB 3838 would require an applicable governmental entity to post in a prominent location on the home page of the entity's website each emergency notification issued by the entity and any other official notice issued by the entity, including notices regarding the entity's ability or inability to provide services the entity normally provides to the public.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

