

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 121

SESSION: 2003 Regular Session

TOPIC: Use and Possession of Radio Equipment Capable of Receiving Police Emergency Transmissions

Date: July 25, 2003

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Overview

This law adds political subdivisions to the list of entities to which the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) may grant a permit to use radio equipment capable of receiving a police emergency frequency transmission. The law also provides that the permit shall extend not only to the person who is designated in writing as the permit holder, but also to a person who is designated in writing as an authorized representative of a political subdivision, provided the use occurs while in the course and scope of duties or employment. As a result, each individual representative of a political subdivision does not need to obtain a separate permit.

- 1 Use regulated.** Specifies the persons who may use radio equipment capable of receiving a police emergency frequency. Extends the persons who may use this equipment to include a person who is designated in writing as an authorized representative of a political subdivision that has been issued a permit. In these cases, the equipment may be used in the course and scope of duties or employment, such that the individual does not need to obtain a separate permit. Current law provides criminal penalties for possessing such equipment without a permit.
- 2 Permit.** Adds political subdivisions to the list of individuals and entities to which the Superintendent of the BCA must issue a written permit upon written application. Current law states that anyone requesting such a permit must show good cause to use radio equipment capable of receiving a police emergency frequency, as a necessity, in the lawful pursuit of a business, trade, or occupation.