

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** FEBRUARY 15, 2017

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## GUILLEN BILL STRENGTHENS TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD

H.B. 1905 – Aligns Descriptions of Key Officer Positions to Boost Federal Funding

**AUSTIN** - On February 15th, State Representative Ryan Guillen (D—Rural South Texas) filed HB 1905 to align state and federal descriptions for general officer titles and positions within the Texas National Guard so they can be officially recognized and qualify for federal funding.

"The men and women of the Texas National Guard serve honorably to defend our country and to help in times of disaster. Every position deserves to be properly recognized," said Guillen. "This bill ensures that our state emergency services have the resources needed to perform their duties."

The legislature created new general officer positions within the Texas National Guard two years ago and one of those positions, the Assistant Adjutant General for Government Affairs, did not match federal requirements set by the National Guard Bureau and was not funded. HB 1905 would replace that position with Assistant Adjutant General for Domestic Operations, effectively aligning Texas law with federal law and allowing funding for a recognized position.

HB 1905 also clarifies the title and duties of the Assistant Adjutant General for Homeland Security, as well as the duties of the Assistant Adjutant General for Domestic Operations, and expands the number of army assistants the adjutant general may appoint for better coordination.

"The National Guard does a lot for the communities of Texas, and are often the first responders to back up local emergency personnel in times of crisis." said Guillen. "With this legislation we can ensure the National Guard has the right people and proper funding in place to help when needed."

Representative Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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