

By: Gallegos

S.B. No. 181

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to uniform reentry procedures for essential personnel
3 entering an area evacuated during a disaster or other emergency.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 418.018, Government Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

7 (d) The governor, in cooperation with the Department of
8 Public Safety of the State of Texas, shall by rule establish uniform
9 reentry procedures for essential personnel entering a disaster area
10 or a stricken or threatened area that has been evacuated. The
11 procedures must:

12 (1) authorize the orderly reentry of essential
13 personnel according to the critical functions provided by the
14 personnel in restoring normal operations to the area following an
15 evacuation;

16 (2) prioritize the order of reentry for the essential
17 personnel, including emergency responders, search and rescue
18 personnel, infrastructure and utility repair personnel, official
19 damage assessment personnel, health care providers, and businesses
20 essential to the return of residents; and

21 (3) establish methods to authenticate the identity of
22 the personnel authorized to reenter the area.

23 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
24 of this Act, the governor, in cooperation with the Department of

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1 Public Safety of the State of Texas, shall adopt rules to administer
2 Section 418.018(d), Government Code, as added by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.