

AN ACT

relating to creating limited purpose disaster declaration authority for the governor and a search and rescue task force in each disaster field response region.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 418.025 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.025. LIMITED PURPOSE DECLARATION. (a) If the governor determines that a disaster can be adequately addressed without invoking all the powers and duties provided by this subchapter, the governor may, by proclamation or executive order, issue a limited purpose disaster declaration invoking only the authority provided by Sections 418.016(a) and (e).

(b) A declaration made under this section is subject to Section 418.014.

SECTION 2. Section 418.043, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 418.043. OTHER POWERS AND DUTIES. The division shall:

(1) determine requirements of the state and its political subdivisions for food, clothing, and other necessities in event of a disaster;

(2) procure and position supplies, medicines, materials, and equipment;

(3) adopt standards and requirements for local and

- 1 interjurisdictional emergency management plans;
- 2 (4) periodically review local and interjurisdictional
3 emergency management plans;
- 4 (5) coordinate deployment of mobile support units;
- 5 (6) establish and operate training programs and
6 programs of public information or assist political subdivisions and
7 emergency management agencies to establish and operate the
8 programs;
- 9 (7) make surveys of public and private industries,
10 resources, and facilities in the state that are necessary to carry
11 out the purposes of this chapter;
- 12 (8) plan and make arrangements for the availability
13 and use of any private facilities, services, and property and
14 provide for payment for use under terms and conditions agreed on if
15 the facilities are used and payment is necessary;
- 16 (9) establish a register of persons with types of
17 training and skills important in disaster mitigation,
18 preparedness, response, and recovery;
- 19 (10) establish a register of mobile and construction
20 equipment and temporary housing available for use in a disaster;
- 21 (11) assist political subdivisions in developing
22 plans for the humane evacuation, transport, and temporary
23 sheltering of service animals and household pets in a disaster;
- 24 (12) prepare, for issuance by the governor, executive
25 orders and regulations necessary or appropriate in coping with
26 disasters;
- 27 (13) cooperate with the federal government and any

1 public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this
2 chapter and in implementing programs for disaster mitigation,
3 preparation, response, and recovery;

4 (14) develop a plan to raise public awareness and
5 expand the capability of the information and referral network under
6 Section 531.0312;

7 (15) improve the integration of volunteer groups,
8 including faith-based organizations, into emergency management
9 plans;

10 (16) cooperate with the Federal Emergency Management
11 Agency to create uniform guidelines for acceptable home repairs
12 following disasters and promote public awareness of the guidelines;

13 (17) cooperate with state agencies to:

14 (A) encourage the public to participate in
15 volunteer emergency response teams and organizations that respond
16 to disasters; and

17 (B) provide information on those programs in
18 state disaster preparedness and educational materials and on
19 Internet websites;

20 (18) establish a liability awareness program for
21 volunteers, including medical professionals;

22 (19) define "individuals with special needs" in the
23 context of a disaster;

24 (20) establish and operate, subject to the
25 availability of funds, a search and rescue task force in each field
26 response region established by the division to assist in search,
27 rescue, and recovery efforts before, during, and after a natural or

1 man-made disaster; and

2 (21) [~~20~~] do other things necessary, incidental, or
3 appropriate for the implementation of this chapter.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1465 passed the Senate on April 13, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; May 25, 2015, Senate refused to concur in House amendment and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 27, 2015, House granted request of the Senate; May 30, 2015, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1465 passed the House, with amendment, on May 21, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 1, two present not voting; May 27, 2015, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2015, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 2, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor