

1-1 By: Dominguez, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Johnson) H.B. No. 2340
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2019;
 1-3 April 24, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Water
 1-4 & Rural Affairs; May 13, 2019, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 13, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14			X	

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to emergency and disaster management, response, and
 1-18 recovery.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 418.002, Government Code, is amended to
 1-21 read as follows:

1-22 Sec. 418.002. PURPOSES. The purposes of this chapter are
 1-23 to:

1-24 (1) reduce vulnerability of people and communities of
 1-25 this state to damage, injury, and loss of life and property
 1-26 resulting from natural or man-made catastrophes, riots, or hostile
 1-27 military or paramilitary action;

1-28 (2) prepare for prompt and efficient rescue, care, and
 1-29 treatment of persons victimized or threatened by disaster;

1-30 (3) provide a setting conducive to the rapid and
 1-31 orderly restoration and rehabilitation of persons and property
 1-32 affected by disasters;

1-33 (4) clarify and strengthen the roles of the governor,
 1-34 state agencies, the judicial branch of state government, and local
 1-35 governments in prevention of, preparation for, response to, and
 1-36 recovery from disasters;

1-37 (5) authorize and provide for cooperation in disaster
 1-38 mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;

1-39 (6) authorize and provide for coordination of
 1-40 activities relating to disaster mitigation, preparedness,
 1-41 response, and recovery by agencies and officers of this state, and
 1-42 similar state-local, interstate, federal-state, and foreign
 1-43 activities in which the state and its political subdivisions may
 1-44 participate;

1-45 (7) provide an emergency management system embodying
 1-46 all aspects of predisaster preparedness and postdisaster response;

1-47 (8) assist in mitigation of disasters caused or
 1-48 aggravated by inadequate planning for and regulation of public and
 1-49 private facilities and land use; ~~and~~

1-50 (9) encourage state agencies, local governments,
 1-51 nongovernmental organizations, private entities, and individuals
 1-52 to adopt the goals of the strategic plan of the Federal Emergency
 1-53 Management Agency for preparing for, responding to, and recovering
 1-54 from a disaster that emphasize cooperation among federal agencies,
 1-55 state agencies, local governments, nongovernmental organizations,
 1-56 private entities, and individuals in each activity or project
 1-57 undertaken to ensure that this state is prepared to effectively
 1-58 respond to and recover from a disaster; and

1-59 (10) provide the authority and mechanism to respond to
 1-60 an energy emergency.

1-61 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is

2-1 amended by adding Sections 418.054 and 418.055 to read as follows:
 2-2 Sec. 418.054. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT STUDY GROUP. (a) In this
 2-3 section, "study group" means the unmanned aircraft study group
 2-4 established under this section.

2-5 (b) The unmanned aircraft study group is established and
 2-6 consists of the following members appointed by the chief of the
 2-7 division:

- 2-8 (1) representatives of the division;
- 2-9 (2) representatives from institutions of higher
 2-10 education; and
- 2-11 (3) other appropriate interested persons.

2-12 (c) The study group shall study issues related to the
 2-13 appropriate use of unmanned aircraft in responding to and
 2-14 recovering from a disaster, including:

- 2-15 (1) strategies for coordinating and promoting the use
 2-16 of unmanned aircraft among state agencies, local governments, and
 2-17 private entities in the response and recovery; and
- 2-18 (2) recommended changes to state law that would allow
 2-19 state agencies, local governments, and private entities to more
 2-20 effectively use unmanned aircraft in the response and recovery.

2-21 (d) Not later than November 1, 2020, the study group shall
 2-22 submit a report containing recommendations on the issues described
 2-23 by Subsection (c) to each member of the legislature.

2-24 (e) The study group is abolished and this section expires
 2-25 January 1, 2021.

2-26 Sec. 418.055. INFORMATION SHARING WORK GROUP. (a) In this
 2-27 section, "work group" means the work group established under this
 2-28 section.

2-29 (b) The division shall establish a work group of state
 2-30 agencies involved in disaster management. The work group consists
 2-31 of members appointed by the chief of the division who represent:

- 2-32 (1) the comptroller's office;
- 2-33 (2) the Department of State Health Services;
- 2-34 (3) the Texas Department of Transportation;
- 2-35 (4) the General Land Office;
- 2-36 (5) the Health and Human Services Commission;
- 2-37 (6) institutions of higher education; and
- 2-38 (7) to the extent practicable, appropriate federal
 2-39 agencies.

2-40 (c) The work group shall develop recommendations for
 2-41 improving the manner in which electronic information is stored by
 2-42 and shared among state agencies and between state agencies and
 2-43 federal agencies to improve the capacity of the agencies to:

- 2-44 (1) respond to a disaster; and
- 2-45 (2) coordinate the agencies' responses to a disaster.

2-46 (d) Not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year,
 2-47 the work group shall submit the group's recommendations to the
 2-48 governor.

2-49 SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
 2-50 amended by adding Section 418.056 to read as follows:

2-51 Sec. 418.056. PERMITTING TASK FORCE. (a) The division
 2-52 shall form a task force with representatives from the General Land
 2-53 Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Parks and
 2-54 Wildlife Department, Texas Water Development Board, Texas A&M
 2-55 AgriLife Extension Service, Department of State Health Services,
 2-56 Public Utility Commission of Texas, and Texas Historical Commission
 2-57 to be activated if a state of disaster is declared under Section
 2-58 418.014 because of weather conditions to expedite:

- 2-59 (1) environmental permitting; and
- 2-60 (2) access to funds from federal disaster relief
 2-61 programs following the disaster.

2-62 (b) The task force formed under this section shall develop
 2-63 recommendations for expediting the evaluation of environmental
 2-64 permits during disaster recovery in order for local entities to
 2-65 demonstrate compliance with regulations and access federal
 2-66 disaster relief programs and funding.

2-67 (c) In performing its duties under this section, the task
 2-68 force may use resources of agencies participating in the task
 2-69 force.

3-1 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 751, Government Code, is
3-2 amended by adding Section 751.017 to read as follows:

3-3 Sec. 751.017. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY
3-4 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DISASTER ASSISTANCE. (a) The office, in
3-5 consultation with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and,
3-6 as practicable, federal agencies and members of Congress, shall:

3-7 (1) study federal laws and policies related to issues
3-8 affecting the ability of federal agencies, state agencies, and
3-9 local governments to cooperate in responding to a disaster,
3-10 including issues related to procurement, housing assistance,
3-11 information sharing, personnel, and federal disaster assistance
3-12 programs; and

3-13 (2) make recommendations to improve federal laws and
3-14 policies related to the issues described by Subdivision (1).

3-15 (b) Not later than November 1, 2020, the office shall
3-16 deliver to the board a report of the recommendations described by
3-17 Subsection (a)(2).

3-18 (c) This section expires January 1, 2021.

3-19 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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