By: Paul, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Alvarado)

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2025;
April 28, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources; May 8, 2025, reported favorably by the 1-1 1-2 1-3 1-4 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 8, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE 1-6

1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Birdwell	X			
1-9	Zaffirini	X			
1-10	Alvarado	X			
1-11	Blanco	X			
1-12	Flores	X			
1-13	Hancock	X			
1-14	Hughes			X	
1-15	Parker	X			
1-16	Sparks	X			

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

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relating to creation of the gulf coast protection account to be administered by the General Land Office.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 31, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 31.070 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.070. GULF COAST PROTECTION ACCOUNT. (a) The gulf protection account is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund administered by the land office under this section and rules adopted by the land office.

(b) The gulf coast protection account consists of:

(1) money from gifts, donations, and grants; and

(2) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the account by the legislature.

(c) Money in the gulf coast protection account may be used only to pay for expenditures that:

(1) are necessary fulfill nonfederal to obligations under agreements with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for implementing projects included in the plan recommended by the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study Final Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement dated August 2021 issued by the Galveston District, Southwestern Division, of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the land office;

(2) comply with the terms of a local cooperation executed by the land office and the Gulf Coast Protection agreement District established under Chapter 9502, Special District Local Laws Code; and

(3) are for projects that:

(A) are necessary or useful for the protection of the portion of the gulf coast located within the territory of the district; or

(B) would benefit the district and are designated as Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects within the Coastal Texas Study.

The legislature finds that the expenditure of money in the gulf coast protection account in accordance with Subsection (c) serves a public purpose.

(e) The expenditure of money in the gulf coast protection

account is subject to audit by the state auditor.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this 2-1 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-2 * * * * *