

Amend CSHB 4409 (Senate committee report) by adding the following appropriately numbered section to the bill and renumbering subsequent sections of the bill as appropriate:

SECTION _____. Section 418.018, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(d) The division, in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety, shall create a task force to study and develop uniform reentry procedures for essential personnel entering a disaster area or a stricken or threatened area that has been evacuated. The task force shall submit a written report on the procedures developed by the task force to the governor. The procedures must:

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

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

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

(e) The task force created under Subsection (d) must include representatives of:

(1) the office of the governor;

(2) the Department of Public Safety;

(3) emergency responders;

(4) search and rescue personnel;

(5) infrastructure and utility repair personnel;

(6) official damage assessment personnel;

(7) health care providers;

(8) the Texas Oil and Gas Association;

(9) county judges and mayors; and

(10) businesses essential to the return of residents.

(f) Based on the report and procedures developed by the task force created under Subsection (d) and in cooperation with the

Department of Public Safety, the division shall establish uniform reentry procedures for essential personnel entering a disaster area or a stricken or threatened area that has been evacuated. The procedures adopted under this section may not diminish the authority of local emergency management officials to adopt appropriate reentry provisions in a local plan or to make decisions on the timing and implementation of reentry activities.

SECTION 2. The division of emergency management in the office of the governor, in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, shall:

(1) appoint members to the task force created under Subsection (d), Section 418.018, Government Code, as added by this Act; and

(2) based on the report and procedures developed by the task force, adopt uniform reentry procedures for essential personnel as required by Subsection (f), Section 418.018, Government Code, as added by this Act.