

By: Landgraf

H.B. No. 2892

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishment of the Texas Emergency Alert Management System (TEAMS).

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

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

SUBCHAPTER J. TEXAS EMERGENCY ALERT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TEAMS)

Sec. 418.270. DEFINITION. In this subchapter:

(1) "alert management system" means the Texas Emergency Alert Management System (TEAMS) established under this subchapter.

(2) "Chief" means the chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management appointed under Section 418.041.

Sec. 418.271. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEXAS ALERT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TEAMS). (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the division has authority to manage all state emergency alert systems.

(b) With the cooperation of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Commission on State Emergency Communications, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Railroad Commission of Texas, the State Office of Risk Management, the office of the governor, and other

1 appropriate agencies in this state, the division shall identify
2 potential threats of regional or statewide significance and develop
3 and implement a plan to alert the public by use of the Federal
4 Wireless Emergency Alert System in the event that the chief,
5 director of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas,
6 and a state elected official identify a need to alert Texans to an
7 imminent threat to public health or safety.

8 Sec. 418.272. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The chief is the
9 statewide coordinator of the alert management system.

10 (b) The division shall adopt rules and the chief shall issue
11 directives as necessary to ensure proper implementation of the
12 alert management system.

13 (c) The chief shall prescribe forms to use in requesting
14 activation of an alert regarding an emergency of statewide or
15 regional significance.

16 Sec. 418.273. DIVISION TO RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS. (a) The
17 division shall recruit public and commercial television and radio
18 broadcasters, mobile telephone service providers, private
19 commercial entities, state or local governmental entities, the
20 public, and other appropriate persons to assist in developing and
21 implementing the alert management system.

22 (b) The division may enter into agreements with
23 participants in the alert management system to provide necessary
24 support for the alert management system.

25 Sec. 418.274. ACTIVATION. (a) On the request of a state
26 elected official and a state agency official or law enforcement
27 agency, the chief shall immediately investigate the need to

1 activate a statewide or regional alert that is not otherwise
2 authorized by Chapter 411 or 418, Government Code and notify
3 appropriate participants in the alert system as established by rule
4 if the chief, director of the Department of Public Safety of the
5 State of Texas, and a state elected official determine there is an
6 imminent threat to public health or safety.

7 Sec. 418.275. STATE AGENCIES. (a) A state agency
8 participating in the alert system shall cooperate with the division
9 and assist in identifying potential threats and developing and
10 implementing the alert management system.

11 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
12 of this Act, the public safety director of the Department of Public
13 Safety of the State of Texas shall adopt rules and issue directives
14 necessary to implement Subchapter L-1, Chapter 411, Government
15 Code, as added by this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.