

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 3807

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of lifeguards and informational signs to improve safety on public beaches.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.065, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) As part of the duty under this section to clean and maintain the condition of public beaches, a municipality shall:

(1) during reasonable daylight hours for the months of March through November, provide occupied lifeguard towers on each side of each pier, jetty, or other structure that protrudes into the Gulf of Mexico that is located within the corporate boundaries; and

(2) post within 100 yards of each side of each structure described by Subdivision (1) signs clearly describing the dangerous water conditions that may occur near the structure.

SECTION 2. Section 61.066, Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.066. DUTY OF COUNTY. (a) It is the duty and responsibility of the commissioners court of any county located or bordering on the Gulf of Mexico to clean and maintain the condition of all public beaches located inside the county but outside the boundaries of any incorporated city located or bordering on the Gulf of Mexico and all public beaches owned by the county and located inside the boundaries of an incorporated city, town, or

1 village.

2 (b) As part of the duty under this section to clean and  
3 maintain the condition of public beaches, a county shall:

4 (1) during reasonable daylight hours for the months of  
5 March through November, provide occupied lifeguard towers on each  
6 side of each pier, jetty, or other structure that protrudes into the  
7 Gulf of Mexico that is located on a public beach described by  
8 Subsection (a); and

9 (2) post within 100 yards of each side of each  
10 structure described by Subdivision (1) signs clearly describing the  
11 dangerous water conditions that may occur near the structure.

12 SECTION 3. Section 61.067, Natural Resources Code, is  
13 amended by adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

14 (a-2) As part of the duty under this section to clean and  
15 maintain the condition of public beaches located within state  
16 parks, the department shall:

17 (1) during reasonable daylight hours for the months of  
18 March through November, provide occupied lifeguard towers on each  
19 side of each pier, jetty, or other structure that protrudes into the  
20 Gulf of Mexico that is located within a state park; and

21 (2) post within 100 yards of each side of each  
22 structure described by Subdivision (1) signs clearly describing the  
23 dangerous water conditions that may occur near the structure.

24 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 13, Parks and Wildlife  
25 Code, is amended by adding Section 13.023 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 13.023. LIFEGUARDS AND SIGNAGE IN CERTAIN AREAS. The  
27 department shall:

1           (1) during reasonable daylight hours for the months of  
2 March through November, provide occupied lifeguard towers on each  
3 side of each pier, jetty, or other structure that protrudes into the  
4 Gulf of Mexico that is located within a state park; and

5           (2) post within 100 yards of each side of each  
6 structure described by Subdivision (1) signs clearly describing the  
7 dangerous water conditions that may occur near the structure.

8           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.