

By: Creighton, et al.

S.B. No. 1780

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the protection of public health in this state,  
3 including through the establishment of the Texas Epidemic Public  
4 Health Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center  
5 at Houston.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 61.003(6), Education Code, is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (6) "Other agency of higher education" means The  
10 University of Texas System, System Administration; The University  
11 of Texas at El Paso Museum; Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute  
12 at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; The  
13 Texas A&M University System, Administrative and General Offices;  
14 Texas A&M AgriLife Research; Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service;  
15 Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Service (a part of the Texas A&M  
16 AgriLife Extension Service); Texas A&M Engineering Experiment  
17 Station (including the Texas A&M Transportation Institute); Texas  
18 A&M Engineering Extension Service; Texas A&M Forest Service; Texas  
19 Division of Emergency Management; Texas Tech University Museum;  
20 Texas State University System, System Administration; Sam Houston  
21 Memorial Museum; Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum; Cotton  
22 Research Committee of Texas; Texas Water Resources Institute; Texas  
23 A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory; and any other unit,  
24 division, institution, or agency which shall be so designated by

1 statute or which may be established to operate as a component part  
2 of any public senior college or university, or which may be so  
3 classified as provided in this chapter.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 75, Education Code, is amended by adding  
5 Subchapter D to read as follows:

6 SUBCHAPTER D. TEXAS EPIDEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

7 Sec. 75.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

8 (1) "Board" means the board of regents of The  
9 University of Texas System.

10 (2) "Health science center" means The University of  
11 Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

12 (3) "Institute" means the Texas Epidemic Public Health  
13 Institute.

14 Sec. 75.302. ESTABLISHMENT. The board shall establish and  
15 maintain the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute at the health  
16 science center.

17 Sec. 75.303. ROLE AND SCOPE. The institute shall establish  
18 and maintain a public health reserve network of public health  
19 professionals, community health workers, state and local public  
20 health agencies, health care organizations, universities  
21 throughout the state, and other relevant entities and persons for  
22 the purpose of coordinating efforts to:

23 (1) protect public health in this state; and

24 (2) support pandemic and epidemic disaster  
25 preparedness and response components of the state emergency  
26 management plan required by Section 418.042, Government Code.

27 Sec. 75.304. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The administration of

1 the institute is under the direction of the chancellor of The  
2 University of Texas System and the board through the president of  
3 the health science center.

4 (b) The Department of State Health Services shall provide  
5 the institute with access to relevant and timely data necessary for  
6 the institute to perform its duties.

7 Sec. 75.305. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The institute  
8 may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source for the  
9 purposes of the institute.

10 Sec. 75.306. INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR REVIEW BY  
11 COMPTROLLER. (a) The institute biennially shall commission an  
12 independent financial audit of its activities from a certified  
13 public accounting firm. The institute shall provide the audit to  
14 the comptroller.

15 (b) The comptroller shall review and evaluate the audit and  
16 biennially issue a public report of that review.

17 Sec. 75.307. APPROPRIATION CONTINGENCY. The board is  
18 required to implement a provision of this subchapter only if the  
19 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If  
20 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
21 purpose, the board may, but is not required to, implement the  
22 provision using other money available to the board for that  
23 purpose.

24 SECTION 3. Section [418.042](#)(a), Government Code, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26 (a) The division shall prepare and keep current a  
27 comprehensive state emergency management plan. The plan may

1 include:

2 (1) provisions for prevention and minimization of  
3 injury and damage caused by disaster;

4 (2) provisions for prompt and effective response to  
5 disaster;

6 (3) provisions for emergency relief;

7 (4) provisions for energy emergencies;

8 (5) identification of areas particularly vulnerable  
9 to disasters;

10 (6) recommendations for zoning, building  
11 restrictions, and other land-use controls, safety measures for  
12 securing mobile homes or other nonpermanent or semipermanent  
13 structures, and other preventive and preparedness measures  
14 designed to eliminate or reduce disasters or their impact;

15 (7) provisions for assistance to local officials in  
16 designing local emergency management plans;

17 (8) authorization and procedures for the erection or  
18 other construction of temporary works designed to protect against  
19 or mitigate danger, damage, or loss from flood, fire, or other  
20 disaster;

21 (9) preparation and distribution to the appropriate  
22 state and local officials of state catalogs of federal, state, and  
23 private assistance programs;

24 (10) organization of manpower and channels of  
25 assistance;

26 (11) coordination of federal, state, and local  
27 emergency management activities;

1           (12) coordination of the state emergency management  
2 plan with the emergency management plans of the federal government;

3           (13) coordination of federal and state energy  
4 emergency plans;

5           (14) provisions for providing information to local  
6 officials on activation of the Emergency Alert System established  
7 under 47 C.F.R. Part 11;

8           (15) a database of public facilities that may be used  
9 under Section 418.017 to shelter individuals during a disaster,  
10 including air-conditioned facilities for shelter during an extreme  
11 heat disaster and fortified structures for shelter during a wind  
12 disaster;

13           (16) provisions for quickly replenishing the food  
14 supplies of area food banks or food pantries following a disaster;

15 [~~and~~]

16           (17) provisions for protecting public health; and

17           (18) other necessary matters relating to disasters.

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