

1-1 By: Creighton, Zaffirini S.B. No. 1780  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2021; March 26, 2021, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;  
 1-4 April 19, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0, one present not  
 1-6 voting; April 19, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15				X
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1780 By: Creighton

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the protection of public health in this state,  
 1-22 including through the establishment of the Texas Epidemic Public  
 1-23 Health Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center  
 1-24 at Houston.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Section 61.003(6), Education Code, is amended to  
 1-27 read as follows:

1-28 (6) "Other agency of higher education" means The  
 1-29 University of Texas System, System Administration; The University  
 1-30 of Texas at El Paso Museum; Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute  
 1-31 at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; The  
 1-32 Texas A&M University System, Administrative and General Offices;  
 1-33 Texas A&M AgriLife Research; Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service;  
 1-34 Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Service (a part of the Texas A&M  
 1-35 AgriLife Extension Service); Texas A&M Engineering Experiment  
 1-36 Station (including the Texas A&M Transportation Institute); Texas  
 1-37 A&M Engineering Extension Service; Texas A&M Forest Service; Texas  
 1-38 Division of Emergency Management; Texas Tech University Museum;  
 1-39 Texas State University System, System Administration; Sam Houston  
 1-40 Memorial Museum; Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum; Cotton  
 1-41 Research Committee of Texas; Texas Water Resources Institute; Texas  
 1-42 A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory; and any other unit,  
 1-43 division, institution, or agency which shall be so designated by  
 1-44 statute or which may be established to operate as a component part  
 1-45 of any public senior college or university, or which may be so  
 1-46 classified as provided in this chapter.

1-47 SECTION 2. Chapter 75, Education Code, is amended by adding  
 1-48 Subchapter D to read as follows:

1-49 SUBCHAPTER D. TEXAS EPIDEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

1-50 Sec. 75.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-51 (1) "Board" means the board of regents of The  
 1-52 University of Texas System.

1-53 (2) "Health science center" means The University of  
 1-54 Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

1-55 (3) "Institute" means the Texas Epidemic Public Health  
 1-56 Institute.

1-57 Sec. 75.302. ESTABLISHMENT. The board shall establish and  
 1-58 maintain the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute at the health  
 1-59 science center.

1-60 Sec. 75.303. ROLE AND SCOPE. The institute shall establish

2-1 and maintain a public health reserve network of public health  
2-2 professionals, community health workers, state and local public  
2-3 health agencies, health care organizations, universities  
2-4 throughout the state, and other relevant entities and persons for  
2-5 the purpose of coordinating efforts to:

- 2-6 (1) protect public health in this state; and
- 2-7 (2) support pandemic and epidemic disaster
- 2-8 preparedness and response components of the state emergency
- 2-9 management plan required by Section 418.042, Government Code.

2-10 Sec. 75.304. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The administration of  
2-11 the institute is under the direction of the chancellor of The  
2-12 University of Texas System and the board through the president of  
2-13 the health science center.

2-14 (b) The Department of State Health Services shall provide  
2-15 the institute with access to relevant and timely data necessary for  
2-16 the institute to perform its duties.

2-17 Sec. 75.305. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The institute  
2-18 may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source for the  
2-19 purposes of the institute.

2-20 Sec. 75.306. INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR REVIEW BY  
2-21 COMPTROLLER. (a) The institute biennially shall commission an  
2-22 independent financial audit of its activities from a certified  
2-23 public accounting firm. The institute shall provide the audit to  
2-24 the comptroller.

2-25 (b) The comptroller shall review and evaluate the audit and  
2-26 biennially issue a public report of that review.

2-27 Sec. 75.307. APPROPRIATION CONTINGENCY. The board is  
2-28 required to implement a provision of this subchapter only if the  
2-29 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If  
2-30 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
2-31 purpose, the board may, but is not required to, implement the  
2-32 provision using other money available to the board for that  
2-33 purpose.

2-34 SECTION 3. Section 418.042(a), Government Code, is amended  
2-35 to read as follows:

2-36 (a) The division shall prepare and keep current a  
2-37 comprehensive state emergency management plan. The plan may  
2-38 include:

- 2-39 (1) provisions for prevention and minimization of
- 2-40 injury and damage caused by disaster;
- 2-41 (2) provisions for prompt and effective response to
- 2-42 disaster;
- 2-43 (3) provisions for emergency relief;
- 2-44 (4) provisions for energy emergencies;
- 2-45 (5) identification of areas particularly vulnerable
- 2-46 to disasters;
- 2-47 (6) recommendations for zoning, building
- 2-48 restrictions, and other land-use controls, safety measures for
- 2-49 securing mobile homes or other nonpermanent or semipermanent
- 2-50 structures, and other preventive and preparedness measures
- 2-51 designed to eliminate or reduce disasters or their impact;
- 2-52 (7) provisions for assistance to local officials in
- 2-53 designing local emergency management plans;
- 2-54 (8) authorization and procedures for the erection or
- 2-55 other construction of temporary works designed to protect against
- 2-56 or mitigate danger, damage, or loss from flood, fire, or other
- 2-57 disaster;
- 2-58 (9) preparation and distribution to the appropriate
- 2-59 state and local officials of state catalogs of federal, state, and
- 2-60 private assistance programs;
- 2-61 (10) organization of manpower and channels of
- 2-62 assistance;
- 2-63 (11) coordination of federal, state, and local
- 2-64 emergency management activities;
- 2-65 (12) coordination of the state emergency management
- 2-66 plan with the emergency management plans of the federal government;
- 2-67 (13) coordination of federal and state energy
- 2-68 emergency plans;
- 2-69 (14) provisions for providing information to local

3-1 officials on activation of the Emergency Alert System established  
 3-2 under 47 C.F.R. Part 11;  
 3-3 (15) a database of public facilities that may be used  
 3-4 under Section 418.017 to shelter individuals during a disaster,  
 3-5 including air-conditioned facilities for shelter during an extreme  
 3-6 heat disaster and fortified structures for shelter during a wind  
 3-7 disaster;  
 3-8 (16) provisions for quickly replenishing the food  
 3-9 supplies of area food banks or food pantries following a disaster;  
 3-10 [~~and~~]  
 3-11 (17) provisions for protecting public health; and  
 3-12 (18) other necessary matters relating to disasters.  
 3-13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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