

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 588

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a statewide disaster alert system.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER L. STATEWIDE DISASTER ALERT SYSTEM

Sec. 418.451. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "alert system" means the statewide disaster alert system developed and implemented under this subchapter.

Sec. 418.452. ESTABLISHMENT OF ALERT SYSTEM. (a) With the cooperation of the office of the governor and appropriate state agencies, the division shall develop and implement a statewide alert system to activate in the event of a disaster affecting any location in this state.

(b) The alert system may be operated in conjunction with any other emergency alert system required by federal or state law. The alert system must notify persons statewide of a disaster affecting any location in this state. The notification must be provided through:

(1) public and commercial television or radio broadcasts;

(2) a system of dynamic message signs located across this state; and

(3) reverse 9-1-1 telephone calls, text messages,

1 e-mails, social media, and other instant messaging systems.

2 (c) The division shall allow persons to register for a  
3 preferred method of receiving the notification described by  
4 Subsection (b)(3).

5 Sec. 418.453. ACTIVATION OF ALERT SYSTEM. (a) When the  
6 division determines that a disaster has occurred or that the  
7 occurrence or threat of disaster is imminent or is notified of a  
8 declaration of disaster under this chapter, the division shall  
9 immediately activate the alert system.

10 (b) The division shall issue updated notifications for the  
11 duration of the disaster.

12 Sec. 418.454. CONTENT OF ALERT SYSTEM NOTIFICATION. (a) A  
13 notification issued under the alert system must include all  
14 information necessary to:

15 (1) assist a person affected by the disaster with  
16 making informed decisions regarding the person's safety; and

17 (2) enable a person in another location in this state  
18 to assist an affected person.

19 (b) The notification must include:

20 (1) real-time information regarding the availability  
21 of gas, food, lodging, 24-hour pharmacy services, and medical care  
22 and the disposition of a deceased individual;

23 (2) for a hurricane, the category classification of  
24 the hurricane, including updated information on changes in the  
25 category classification, the expected time and location of  
26 landfall, and other detailed information; and

27 (3) other information the division determines

1 appropriate.

2 Sec. 418.455. TERMINATION OF ALERT SYSTEM. The division  
3 shall terminate the activation of the alert system when:

4 (1) the division determines that:

5 (A) the threat or danger has passed; or

6 (B) the disaster has been addressed to the extent  
7 that emergency conditions no longer exist; or

8 (2) the state of disaster is terminated as provided by  
9 this chapter.

10 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
11 of this Act, the Texas Division of Emergency Management shall  
12 implement Subchapter L, Chapter 418, Government Code, as added by  
13 this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.