

By: Blanco, et al.

S.B. No. 2218

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on the use of fiber-optic technology for the purpose of border security.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Department" means the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas.

(2) "State agency" means a board, commission, department, office, or other agency in the executive branch of state government that was created by the constitution or a statute of this state, including an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

SECTION 2. STUDY. (a) The department shall conduct a study on the feasibility of using fiber-optic technology along the Texas-Mexico border for the purposes of border security. The study must consider:

(1) the costs and methods of implementing fiber-optic technology, including installation and maintenance;

(2) the effectiveness of fiber-optic technology as a border security tool; and

(3) the possibility of contracting with one or more private entities to implement a fiber-optic border security program.

(b) The department may collaborate with any state agency or

1 council of government the department determines relevant to conduct
2 the study.

3 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2024, the
4 department shall submit to the governor, lieutenant governor,
5 speaker of the house of representatives, and each standing
6 committee of the legislature having primary jurisdiction over
7 border security or fiber-optic technology a report on the results
8 of the study conducted under Section 2 of this Act. The report must
9 include:

10 (1) an assessment of the feasibility of implementing
11 fiber-optic technology along the Texas-Mexico border as a border
12 security tool, including:

13 (A) costs related to implementing fiber-optic
14 technology, including installation and maintenance;

15 (B) the effectiveness of fiber-optic technology
16 in differentiating between animals, individuals, vehicles, or
17 other animate or inanimate objects crossing the border; and

18 (C) barriers or advantages to specific methods of
19 installation or maintenance of fiber-optic technology along the
20 Texas-Mexico border; and

21 (2) a recommendation by the department on whether:

22 (A) this state should implement a border security
23 program using fiber-optic technology; and

24 (B) a fiber-optic border security program would
25 best be managed by a state agency or one or more private entities
26 through a contract.

27 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2025.

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1 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
2 1, 2023.