

By: Alvarado

S.B. No. 795

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creation of the gulf coast protection account to be administered by the General Land Office.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 31, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 31.070 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.070. GULF COAST PROTECTION ACCOUNT. (a) The gulf coast protection account is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund administered by the land office under this section and rules adopted by the land office.

(b) The gulf coast protection account consists of:

(1) money from gifts, donations, and grants; and

(2) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the account by the legislature.

(c) Money in the gulf coast protection account may be used only to pay for expenditures that:

(1) are necessary to fulfill nonfederal sponsor obligations under agreements with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for implementing projects included in the plan recommended by the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study Final Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement dated August 2021 issued by the Galveston District, Southwestern Division, of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the land office;

1 (2) comply with the terms of a local cooperation
2 agreement executed by the land office and the Gulf Coast Protection
3 District established under Chapter 9502, Special District Local
4 Laws Code; and

5 (3) are for projects that:

6 (A) are necessary or useful for the protection of
7 the portion of the gulf coast located within the territory of the
8 district; or

9 (B) would benefit the district and are designated
10 as Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects within the Coastal Texas
11 Study.

12 (d) The legislature finds that the expenditure of money in
13 the gulf coast protection account in accordance with Subsection (c)
14 serves a public purpose.

15 (e) The expenditure of money in the gulf coast protection
16 account is subject to audit by the state auditor.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.