

By: Jackson

S.B. No. 710

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the share of the cost of a coastal erosion study or project required to be paid by a qualified project partner under an agreement with the commissioner of the General Land Office.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.603, Natural Resources Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

(c) An agreement between the commissioner and a qualified project partner to undertake a coastal erosion response study or project:

(1) must require the qualified project partner to pay a specified percentage [at least 15 percent] of the shared project cost that is not less than the minimum amount prescribed by Subsection (e):

(A) before completion of the project; or

(B) following completion of the project, in accordance with a schedule provided by the agreement; and

(2) may contain other terms governing the study or project.

(e) A qualified project partner must pay:

(1) not less than 25 percent of the shared project cost if the project is a beach nourishment project on a public beach or bay shore; and

1           (2) not less than 40 percent of the shared project cost  
2 if the project is any other coastal erosion response study or  
3 project, including:

4                   (A) a marsh restoration project; or

5                   (B) a bay shoreline protection project other than  
6 a beach nourishment project.

7           (f) Notwithstanding Subsections (c) and (e), each biennium  
8 the commissioner may undertake one large-scale beach nourishment  
9 project on a public beach without requiring a qualified project  
10 partner to pay a portion of the shared project cost if the cost of  
11 the project does not exceed one-third of the total amount  
12 appropriated to the land office for coastal erosion planning and  
13 response.

14           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.