

By: Armbrister

S.B. No. 517

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to studies or projects concerning coastal erosion that may
3 be undertaken by the General Land Office in conjunction with
4 qualified project partners.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 33.603, Natural Resources Code, is
7 amended by amending Subsections (b) and (d) and adding Subsection
8 (g) to read as follows:

9 (b) The studies and projects shall address:

10 (1) assessment of the feasibility, cost, and financing
11 of different methods of avoiding, slowing, or remedying coastal
12 erosion;

13 (2) beneficial placement of dredged material where
14 appropriate to replenish eroded public beach, bay shore, marsh, and
15 dune areas;

16 (3) public beach, bay shore, and marsh nourishment or
17 restoration projects using sediments other than material from
18 navigational or other dredging projects;

19 (4) guidelines on grain size and toxicity level;

20 (5) the economic, natural resource, and other benefits
21 of coastal erosion projects;

22 (6) the protection, revegetation, and restoration of
23 dunes;

24 (7) the planting of vegetation as a means of

1 inhibiting bay shore erosion and projects developing and
2 cultivating disease-resistant vegetation adapted to local
3 conditions;

4 (8) the construction or retrofitting of dams, jetties,
5 groins, and other impoundment structures, provided that the
6 structures include ~~[with]~~ sediment bypassing systems;

7 (9) estimating the quantity and quality of sediment
8 trapped by reservoirs, navigation channels, and placement areas and
9 identification of other sediment sources;

10 (10) the use of hard or soft structures on bay
11 shorelines as a method ~~[, giving preference to "soft" methods]~~ of
12 avoiding, slowing, or remedying erosion ~~[in lieu of erecting hard~~
13 ~~or rigid shorefront structures]~~;

14 (11) storm damage mitigation, post-storm damage
15 assessment, and debris removal from public beaches; ~~[and]~~

16 (12) structural shoreline protection projects that
17 use innovative technologies designed or engineered to minimize
18 beach scour; and

19 (13) other studies or projects the commissioner
20 considers necessary or appropriate to implement this subchapter.

21 (d) Except as provided by Subsections (b)(8) and (12), this
22 ~~[This]~~ chapter does not authorize the construction or funding of a
23 hard structure on or landward of a public beach.

24 (g) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), each biennium the
25 commissioner may undertake or provide funding for one or more
26 erosion response demonstration projects if the state's portion of
27 the shared project cost does not exceed one-tenth of the total

1 amount appropriated to the land office for coastal erosion planning
2 and response.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.