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                 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2007;
        May 14, 2007, read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education; May 18, 2007, reported favorably from Committee
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         on Education by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 18, 2007,
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         sent to printer.)
                                      A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
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                                               AN ACT
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         relating to the establishment and operation of a severe storm
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         research and planning center.
                 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
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                 SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 3, Education Code, is amended
         by adding Chapter 155 to read as follows:
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                 CHAPTER 155. SEVERE STORM RESEARCH AND PLANNING CENTER Sec. 155.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:
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                              "Center" means the severe storm
                        (1)
                                                                             research
                                                                                          and
        planning center.
(2) "Commission"
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                                                means
                                                           the
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                                                                    regional
        commission, council of governments, or similar regional planning agency created under Chapter 391, Local Government Code, whose membership includes the most populous county that borders on the
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         Gulf of Mexico or on a bay or inlet of the Gulf of Mexico.
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                Sec. 155.002. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE. The commission shall
         create a severe storm research and planning center to facilitate
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         research and develop plans, programs, and technology associated with the impact of and response to hurricanes and other severe
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storms in the Gulf Coast Region and adjacent areas, including:
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                        (1) the development of real-time storm
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         forecasting ability for hurricanes and other severe storms;
        (2) the development of radar-based rainfall and flood warning systems for urban and coastal areas;
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                        (3) the development of public
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                                                                    education <u>programs</u>
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         relating
                      to compliance with government-initiated evacuation
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         orders;
                        (4) the assessment of infrastructure risks; and(5) the development of evacuation plans.
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                       155.003. ADMINISTRATION.
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                                                          (a) The commission shall
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         administer the center.
        (b) The commission shall appoint an advisory committee to advise the commission regarding the development of priorities, guidelines, and procedures for the implementation of this chapter.
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         The advisory committee must include representatives of:
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                        (1) Rice University;
(2) the University of Houston;
(3) The University of Texas at Austin;
(4) Texas A&M University;
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                              Texas A&M University at Galveston;
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                        (5)
                              Texas Southern University;
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                        (6)
                        (7)
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                              The University of Texas at Brownsville;
         (8) regional planning commissions, councils of governments, or similar regional planning agencies created under
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         Chapter 391, Local Government Code, whose membership includes a
         municipality or county located in the Gulf Coast Region;
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                        (9) engineering and construction firms
                                                                                associated
        with public works contracts; and (10) the medical profession in a major urban area
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         located in the Gulf Coast Region.
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         (c) The commission and advisory committee may cooperate, coordinate, and share information with a governmental entity or
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         postsecondary educational institution in another state that
         borders the Gulf of Mexico.
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                      The commission,
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                 (d)
                                              in consultation with the
                                                                                   advisory
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By: Bonnen (Senate Sponsor - Janek)

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H.B. No. 1493

shall adopt guidelines and procedures for the

committee,

administration of this chapter.

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H.B. No. 1493

Sec. 155.004. CONTRACT. To the extent funding is available and for the purpose of operating, managing, and providing services or facilities for the center, the commission shall contract with a private postsecondary educational institution that:
(1) is a member of the Association of American

Universities; (2)

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has an enrollment of at least 3,000 students; and (3) is located in a municipality in the Gulf Coast

Region with a population of 1.8 million or more.

Sec. 155.005. FUNDING. (a) The commission may receive state-appropriated funds for the purpose of supporting the activities of the center.

(b) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and

donations for purposes of this chapter.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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