

1-1 By: Bonnen (Senate Sponsor - Janek) H.B. No. 1493  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2007;  
1-3 May 14, 2007, read first time and referred to Subcommittee on  
1-4 Higher Education; May 18, 2007, reported favorably from Committee  
1-5 on Education by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 18, 2007,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to the establishment and operation of a severe storm  
1-10 research and planning center.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 3, Education Code, is amended  
1-13 by adding Chapter 155 to read as follows:

1-14 CHAPTER 155. SEVERE STORM RESEARCH AND PLANNING CENTER

1-15 Sec. 155.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-16 (1) "Center" means the severe storm research and  
1-17 planning center.

1-18 (2) "Commission" means the regional planning  
1-19 commission, council of governments, or similar regional planning  
1-20 agency created under Chapter 391, Local Government Code, whose  
1-21 membership includes the most populous county that borders on the  
1-22 Gulf of Mexico or on a bay or inlet of the Gulf of Mexico.

1-23 Sec. 155.002. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE. The commission shall  
1-24 create a severe storm research and planning center to facilitate  
1-25 research and develop plans, programs, and technology associated  
1-26 with the impact of and response to hurricanes and other severe  
1-27 storms in the Gulf Coast Region and adjacent areas, including:

1-28 (1) the development of real-time storm surge  
1-29 forecasting ability for hurricanes and other severe storms;

1-30 (2) the development of radar-based rainfall and flood  
1-31 warning systems for urban and coastal areas;

1-32 (3) the development of public education programs  
1-33 relating to compliance with government-initiated evacuation  
1-34 orders;

1-35 (4) the assessment of infrastructure risks; and

1-36 (5) the development of evacuation plans.

1-37 Sec. 155.003. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The commission shall  
1-38 administer the center.

1-39 (b) The commission shall appoint an advisory committee to  
1-40 advise the commission regarding the development of priorities,  
1-41 guidelines, and procedures for the implementation of this chapter.  
1-42 The advisory committee must include representatives of:

1-43 (1) Rice University;

1-44 (2) the University of Houston;

1-45 (3) The University of Texas at Austin;

1-46 (4) Texas A&M University;

1-47 (5) Texas A&M University at Galveston;

1-48 (6) Texas Southern University;

1-49 (7) The University of Texas at Brownsville;

1-50 (8) regional planning commissions, councils of  
1-51 governments, or similar regional planning agencies created under  
1-52 Chapter 391, Local Government Code, whose membership includes a  
1-53 municipality or county located in the Gulf Coast Region;

1-54 (9) engineering and construction firms associated  
1-55 with public works contracts; and

1-56 (10) the medical profession in a major urban area  
1-57 located in the Gulf Coast Region.

1-58 (c) The commission and advisory committee may cooperate,  
1-59 coordinate, and share information with a governmental entity or  
1-60 postsecondary educational institution in another state that  
1-61 borders the Gulf of Mexico.

1-62 (d) The commission, in consultation with the advisory  
1-63 committee, shall adopt guidelines and procedures for the  
1-64 administration of this chapter.

