

By: Burnam, Farrar, et al.

H.B. No. 1553

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1553:

By: Farrar

C.S.H.B. No. 1553

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of a climate adaptation plan by certain entities.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 5, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 393 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 393. CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

Sec. 393.001. PARTICIPATING ENTITIES. Not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year, each of the following entities shall publish a climate adaptation plan that will assess the entity's role with respect to climate change:

(1) the Department of Agriculture;

(2) the independent organization certified under Section 39.151, Utilities Code;

(3) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

(4) the General Land Office;

(5) the Health and Human Services Commission;

(6) the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;

(7) the Texas Department of Insurance;

(8) the Parks and Wildlife Department;

(9) the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas;

(10) the Public Utility Commission of Texas;

- 1 (11) the office of the comptroller;
- 2 (12) the Texas Department of Transportation;
- 3 (13) the Texas Forest Service; and
- 4 (14) the Texas Water Development Board.

5 Sec. 393.002. PLAN. (a) For the purposes of this chapter,
6 a climate adaptation plan is a strategy to identify, minimize, and
7 adequately prepare for the effects of global warming on the social,
8 economic, and ecological systems of this state and to manage the
9 risks associated with a changing climate. A plan under this section
10 must be based on current research-based climate science that
11 identifies the likely impacts of rising ambient temperatures on
12 this state.

13 (b) Each climate adaptation plan must include:

- 14 (1) a climate change vulnerability assessment;
- 15 (2) a review of existing programs in the context of
16 anticipated changing climate conditions;
- 17 (3) specific steps necessary for the entity to fulfill
18 its mission during the anticipated climate change;
- 19 (4) an analysis of the effects implementing the steps
20 identified under Subdivision (3) would have on the entity's budget
21 during the next 2, 5, and 10 years;
- 22 (5) potential sources of funding to support the
23 entity's efforts to adapt to climate change; and
- 24 (6) a statewide strategy to monitor the continuing
25 effects of climate change.

26 (c) In developing a climate adaptation plan, each entity
27 subject to this section shall:

1 (1) consider the most current assessment reports
2 created by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

3 (2) consult with the Houston Advanced Research Center;
4 and

5 (3) consult with the Office of the Texas State
6 Climatologist in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, College of
7 Geosciences, Texas A&M University.

8 (d) Not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year,
9 each entity subject to this section shall post the entity's climate
10 adaptation plan on a publicly accessible Internet website and
11 electronically submit a copy of the plan to:

12 (1) the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of
13 the house of representatives;

14 (2) the presiding officer of each standing committee
15 or subcommittee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over
16 environmental matters; and

17 (3) the executive director of the Texas Commission on
18 Environmental Quality.

19 (e) Each climate adaptation plan is subject to audit by the
20 state auditor in accordance with Chapter 321, Government Code.

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.