

1-1 By: Gallegos S.B. No. 181  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 10, 2008; February 10, 2009,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Subcommittee on Flooding and  
1-4 Evacuations; April 7, 2009, reported adversely, with favorable  
1-5 Committee Substitute from Committee on Intergovernmental Relations  
1-6 by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; April 7, 2009, sent to  
1-7 printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 181 By: Gallegos

1-9 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-10 AN ACT

1-11 relating to the creation of a task force to study and develop  
1-12 uniform reentry procedures for essential personnel entering an area  
1-13 evacuated during a disaster or other emergency.

1-14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-15 SECTION 1. Section 418.018, Government Code, is amended by  
1-16 adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

1-17 (d) The governor's division of emergency management, in  
1-18 cooperation with the Department of Public Safety, shall create a  
1-19 task force to study and develop uniform reentry procedures for  
1-20 essential personnel entering a disaster area or a stricken or  
1-21 threatened area that has been evacuated. The task force shall  
1-22 submit a written report on the procedures developed by the task  
1-23 force to the governor. The procedures must:

1-24 (1) authorize the orderly reentry of essential  
1-25 personnel according to the critical functions provided by the  
1-26 personnel in restoring normal operations to the area following an  
1-27 evacuation;

1-28 (2) prioritize the order of reentry for the essential  
1-29 personnel, including emergency responders, search and rescue  
1-30 personnel, infrastructure and utility repair personnel, official  
1-31 damage assessment personnel, health care providers, and businesses  
1-32 essential to the return of residents; and

1-33 (3) establish methods to authenticate the identity of  
1-34 the personnel authorized to reenter the area.

1-35 (e) The task force created under Subsection (d) must include  
1-36 representatives of:

1-37 (1) the office of the governor;

1-38 (2) the Department of Public Safety;

1-39 (3) emergency responders;

1-40 (4) search and rescue personnel;

1-41 (5) infrastructure and utility repair personnel;

1-42 (6) official damage assessment personnel;

1-43 (7) health care providers;

1-44 (8) county judges and mayors; and

1-45 (9) businesses essential to the return of residents.

1-46 (f) Based on the report and procedures developed by the task  
1-47 force created under Subsection (d) and in cooperation with the  
1-48 Department of Public Safety, the governor by rule shall establish  
1-49 uniform reentry procedures for essential personnel entering a  
1-50 disaster area or a stricken or threatened area that has been  
1-51 evacuated. The rules adopted under this section shall not diminish  
1-52 the authority of local emergency management officials to adopt  
1-53 appropriate reentry provisions in a local plan or to make decisions  
1-54 on the timing and implementation of reentry activities.

1-55 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
1-56 of this Act, the governor, in cooperation with the Department of  
1-57 Public Safety of the State of Texas, shall:

1-58 (1) appoint members to the task force created under  
1-59 Subsection (d), Section 418.018, Government Code, as added by this  
1-60 Act; and

1-61 (2) based on the report and procedures developed by  
1-62 the task force, adopt rules on uniform reentry procedures for  
1-63 essential personnel as required by Subsection (f), Section 418.018,

2-1 Government Code, as added by this Act.

2-2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-6 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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