

By: Gallegos

S.B. No. 339

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to uniform reentry procedures for essential personnel entering an area evacuated during a disaster or other emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 418.018, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) The governor, in cooperation with the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, shall by rule establish uniform reentry procedures for essential personnel entering a disaster area or a stricken or threatened area that has been evacuated. The procedures must:

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

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

(3) establish methods to authenticate the identity of the personnel authorized to reenter the area.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the governor, in cooperation with the Department of

1 Public Safety of the State of Texas, shall adopt rules to administer  
2 Section 418.018(d), Government Code, as added by this Act.

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