

By: Hegar

S.B. No. 1136

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the designation by the commissioner of the General Land Office of critical coastal erosion areas for purposes of the coastal erosion response plan.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.602, Natural Resources Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(b) The commissioner shall publish and periodically update a coastal erosion response plan. The commissioner shall develop the plan in coordination with state and federal agencies and local governments and provide for public input on the plan. The plan must identify critical coastal erosion areas designated by the commissioner and prioritize coastal erosion response studies and projects so that:

(1) benefits are balanced among areas throughout the coast designated by the commissioner as critical coastal erosion areas;

(2) federal and local financial participation is maximized;

(3) studies and projects are scheduled to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale; and

(4) the severity of erosion effects in each area is taken into account.

1 (e) In order to determine which areas should be designated
2 as critical coastal erosion areas and guide the allocation of
3 resources, the commissioner may conduct a coast-wide analysis of
4 the costs and benefits of coastal erosion avoidance, remediation,
5 and planning. An analysis conducted under this subsection may
6 consider:

7 (1) historical erosion rates in an area;

8 (2) the elevation of an area adjacent to the
9 shoreline;

10 (3) the presence of critical infrastructure in an area
11 adjacent to the shoreline;

12 (4) the population density of an area adjacent to the
13 shoreline;

14 (5) the presence of economic activity conducted in an
15 area adjacent to the shoreline;

16 (6) the presence of critical natural resources in an
17 area adjacent to the shoreline;

18 (7) anthropogenic contributions to erosion; and

19 (8) any other factor identified as relevant by the
20 commissioner.

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.