

By: Dukes

H.B. No. 450

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 450:

By: Giddings

C.S.H.B. No. 450

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the designation of a state climatologist and the operation of a state climate office.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 470 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 470. STATE CLIMATOLOGIST AND STATE CLIMATE OFFICE

Sec. 470.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "state agency" means a department, commission, board, office, or other agency in the executive branch of state government, including a university system or institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

Sec. 470.002. DESIGNATION OF STATE CLIMATOLOGIST. (a) The governor shall appoint an officer or employee of a state agency as the state climatologist from a list submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives and the lieutenant governor.

(b) To be eligible for designation as the state climatologist, an individual must have:

(1) a graduate degree with specialization in climate studies or a closely related field of study; and

(2) extensive experience in employing climate data for use by legislative, public, and private entities.

(c) Service as the state climatologist by an officer or employee of a state agency is an additional duty of the individual's

1 office or employment.

2       Sec. 470.003. STATE CLIMATE OFFICE. The state  
3 climatologist shall operate a state climate office that meets or  
4 exceeds the standards and level of service required for recognition  
5 by the American Association of State Climatologists or an  
6 appropriate successor organization.

7       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.