

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 1557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creation of a search and rescue task force in each disaster field response region.

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

SECTION 1. Section 418.043, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 418.043. OTHER POWERS AND DUTIES. The division shall:

(1) determine requirements of the state and its political subdivisions for food, clothing, and other necessities in event of a disaster;

(2) procure and position supplies, medicines, materials, and equipment;

(3) adopt standards and requirements for local and interjurisdictional emergency management plans;

(4) periodically review local and interjurisdictional emergency management plans;

(5) coordinate deployment of mobile support units;

(6) establish and operate training programs and programs of public information or assist political subdivisions and emergency management agencies to establish and operate the programs;

(7) make surveys of public and private industries, resources, and facilities in the state that are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

1 (8) plan and make arrangements for the availability
2 and use of any private facilities, services, and property and
3 provide for payment for use under terms and conditions agreed on if
4 the facilities are used and payment is necessary;

5 (9) establish a register of persons with types of
6 training and skills important in disaster mitigation,
7 preparedness, response, and recovery;

8 (10) establish a register of mobile and construction
9 equipment and temporary housing available for use in a disaster;

10 (11) assist political subdivisions in developing
11 plans for the humane evacuation, transport, and temporary
12 sheltering of service animals and household pets in a disaster;

13 (12) prepare, for issuance by the governor, executive
14 orders and regulations necessary or appropriate in coping with
15 disasters;

16 (13) cooperate with the federal government and any
17 public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this
18 chapter and in implementing programs for disaster mitigation,
19 preparation, response, and recovery;

20 (14) develop a plan to raise public awareness and
21 expand the capability of the information and referral network under
22 Section [531.0312](#);

23 (15) improve the integration of volunteer groups,
24 including faith-based organizations, into emergency management
25 plans;

26 (16) cooperate with the Federal Emergency Management
27 Agency to create uniform guidelines for acceptable home repairs

1 following disasters and promote public awareness of the guidelines;

2 (17) cooperate with state agencies to:

3 (A) encourage the public to participate in
4 volunteer emergency response teams and organizations that respond
5 to disasters; and

6 (B) provide information on those programs in
7 state disaster preparedness and educational materials and on
8 Internet websites;

9 (18) establish a liability awareness program for
10 volunteers, including medical professionals;

11 (19) define "individuals with special needs" in the
12 context of a disaster;

13 (20) establish and operate a search and rescue task
14 force in each field response region established by the division to
15 assist in search, rescue, and recovery efforts before, during, and
16 after a natural or man-made disaster; and

17 (21) [~~(20)~~] do other things necessary, incidental, or
18 appropriate for the implementation of this chapter.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.