

By: Anchia

H.B. No. 2932

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study and report by the Bureau of Economic Geology on
3 land shifting

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
6 amended as follows:

7 Sec. 418.122. STATE STUDY OF LAND USE AND CONSTRUCTION
8 STANDARDS. (a) The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
9 and other state agencies, in conjunction with the division, shall
10 keep land uses and construction of structures and other facilities
11 under continuing study and shall identify areas that are
12 particularly susceptible to severe land shifting, subsidence,
13 flooding, or other catastrophes.

14 (b) The studies shall concentrate on means of reducing or
15 avoiding the dangers and consequences of a catastrophe.

16 (c) The Bureau of Economic Geology shall conduct a study to
17 examine earthquakes and land shifting occurring in the State of
18 Texas. The study must identify:

19 (1) all earthquakes that occurred in the state above
20 1.1 on the Richter magnitude scale by date, intensity, location or
21 general geographical description, and with a particular emphasis on
22 any series of earthquake events;

23 (2) the approximate focal depths and epicenters of the
24 earthquakes and any new or developing fault lines;

1 (3) causal factors that may have lead to the
2 earthquake activity including all possible natural and
3 anthropogenic causes and a correlation analysis of any
4 environmental or man-made factors;

5 (4) the necessary equipment and related cost needed to
6 maintain a scientifically adequate seismic network to continue the
7 study and best practices identified in other states for studying
8 earthquakes and land shifting;

9 (5) any hazard assessments in coordination and
10 conjunction with the Division of Emergency Management and local
11 emergency management personnel; and

12 (6) any other information the Bureau believes is
13 necessary for inclusion in the study; and

14 (7) recommendations for reducing earthquakes induced
15 by anthropogenic causes.

16 (b) The Bureau of Economic Geology shall coordinate with the
17 USGS National Earthquake Information Center and other qualified
18 academic partners in conducting the study.

19 (c) Not later than December 1 of even numbered years, the
20 Bureau of Economic Geology shall submit to the Governor and the
21 standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over
22 state finance, public safety and urban affairs the results of the
23 study and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.