

By: Taylor of Galveston

S.B. No. 695

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study of the feasibility and desirability of creating and maintaining a coastal barrier system.

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

SECTION 1. (a) The legislature shall establish a joint interim committee to continue to study the feasibility and desirability of creating and maintaining a coastal barrier system in this state that includes a series of gates and barriers to prevent storm surge damage to gulf beaches or coastal ports, industry, or property.

(b) The committee is composed of:

(1) the members of the standing committee of the senate that has primary jurisdiction over natural resources;

(2) the members of the standing committee of the house of representatives that has primary jurisdiction over land and resource management;

(3) two members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor, each of whom represents a district in a county that borders the Gulf of Mexico; and

(4) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, each of whom represents a district in a county that borders the Gulf of Mexico.

(c) The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of

1 representatives shall jointly designate a chair or, alternatively,
2 designate two co-chairs from among the committee membership.

3 (d) The committee may adopt rules necessary to carry out the
4 committee's duties under this section.

5 (e) Not later than December 1, 2016, the committee shall
6 report to the governor and the legislature the findings of the study
7 and any recommendations developed by the committee under this
8 section.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.