

By: Garcia

S.B. No. 1787

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an alert system for notification of the release of toxic chemicals by a manufacturing facility.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 505, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 505. MANUFACTURING FACILITY COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT;
EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION ACT

SECTION 2. Section 505.001, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 505.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the Manufacturing Facility Community Right-To-Know Act and Emergency Notification Act.

SECTION 3. The heading to Section 505.017, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 505.017. NOTICE ISSUED UNDER EMERGENCIES; ALERT SYSTEM.

SECTION 4. Section 505.017, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c) If the responsible state agency determines that a release will substantially endanger human health, the agency shall immediately notify persons in the area in which the facility is located of the release using the alert system established under Subsection (d).

1 (d) The state emergency response commission shall develop
2 and maintain an alert system to notify persons in the area in which
3 the facility is located of a release that will substantially
4 endanger human health. The notification must be provided through
5 reverse 9-1-1 calls, text messages, e-mails, social media, and
6 other instant messaging systems. The commission may partner with
7 other state agencies in developing the alert system and shall allow
8 persons to register for a preferred method of receiving a message
9 under the alert system. An alert issued by the system must include:

10 (1) each area affected by the release;

11 (2) a link to an Internet website or other message
12 system that has updated information on each affected area;

13 (3) the chemicals involved in and toxicity of the
14 release;

15 (4) the projected movement of the release; and

16 (5) instructions for protection from exposure to the
17 release.

18 SECTION 5. Not later than September 1, 2016, the state
19 emergency response commission shall establish the alert system as
20 required by Section 505.017, Health and Safety Code, as amended by
21 this Act.

22 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.