

By: Isaac

H.B. No. 1510

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the transfer of certain functions related to emergency
3 services districts from the Department of Agriculture to the Texas
4 Division of Emergency Management.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 487.061, Government Code, is transferred
7 to Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, redesignated as
8 Section 418.053, Government Code, and amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 418.053 [~~487.061~~]. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT
10 PROGRAM. (a) The division [~~department~~] shall serve as a resource
11 to provide interested rural communities with:

12 (1) general information about emergency services
13 districts; and

14 (2) information and training related to the
15 establishment of an emergency services district.

16 (b) The division [~~department~~] may:

17 (1) provide to fire departments in rural areas
18 information relating to assistance programs offered to rural
19 volunteer firefighters, including the federal Staffing for
20 Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program to help fire
21 departments increase staffing and deployment capabilities; and

22 (2) provide to rural homeowners information relating
23 to the benefits of volunteer fire departments, including a
24 reduction in homeowners insurance risk ratings, lower homeowners

1 insurance rates, and better fire protection.

2 SECTION 2. Sections 775.083(a), (b), and (c), Health and
3 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

4 (a) On or before January 1 of each year, a district shall
5 file with the Texas Division of Emergency Management [~~Department of~~
6 ~~Rural Affairs~~] an annual report that includes the following:

7 (1) the district's name;

8 (2) the name of each county in which the district is
9 located;

10 (3) the district's business address;

11 (4) the name, mailing address, and term of office of
12 each commissioner;

13 (5) the name, mailing address, and term of office of
14 the district's general manager, executive director, and fire chief;

15 (6) the name of each legal counsel or other consultant
16 for the district; and

17 (7) the district's annual budget and tax rate for the
18 preceding fiscal year.

19 (b) The Texas Division of Emergency Management [~~Department~~
20 ~~of Rural Affairs~~] may not charge a fee for filing the report.

21 (c) The Texas Division of Emergency Management [~~Department~~
22 ~~of Rural Affairs~~] shall develop and maintain an Internet-based
23 system that enables:

24 (1) a district to securely file the report and update
25 the district's information; and

26 (2) the public to view, in a searchable format, the
27 reports filed by districts under this section.

1 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2018, the following are
2 transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Texas
3 Division of Emergency Management:

4 (1) the powers, duties, functions, programs, and
5 activities of the Department of Agriculture relating to the duties
6 described by Section 418.053, Government Code, as transferred,
7 redesignated, and amended by this Act;

8 (2) any obligations and contracts of the Department of
9 Agriculture that are directly related to implementing a power,
10 duty, function, program, or activity described by Subdivision (1)
11 of this section; and

12 (3) all property and records in the custody of the
13 Department of Agriculture that are related to a power, duty,
14 function, program, or activity described by Subdivision (1) of this
15 section and all funds appropriated by the legislature for that
16 power, duty, function, program, or activity.

17 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act to Section
18 [775.083](#), Health and Safety Code, applies only to an annual report
19 due on or after January 1, 2019. An annual report due before
20 January 1, 2019, is governed by the law as it existed immediately
21 before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in
22 effect for that purpose.

23 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.