

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.B. No. 1927

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 Section 505.017, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 505.017. NOTICE ISSUED UNDER EMERGENCIES; TOXIC CHEMICAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM.

SECTION 2. Section 505.017, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(c) If the responsible state agency determines that a release will substantially endanger human health or the environment, the agency shall, not later than 30 minutes after making the determination, notify persons in the area in which the facility is located of the release using the alert system established under Subsection (d). When the agency determines a release is no longer a threat to human health or the environment, the agency shall notify persons using the alert system.

(d) The state emergency response commission shall develop and maintain a toxic chemical emergency alert system to notify persons in the area in which the facility is located of a release that will substantially endanger human health or the environment. The commission may partner with other state agencies in developing

1 the alert system and shall allow persons to register for a preferred
2 method of receiving a message under the alert system. In developing
3 the alert system, the commission may use as a model the alert
4 systems established by Subchapter L, Chapter 411, Government Code,
5 and Section 51.854, Water Code. The alert system must allow a
6 person the option of not receiving the alerts on the person's
7 notification to the commission.

8 (e) The toxic chemical emergency alert system must:

9 (1) provide notification through reverse 9-1-1 calls,
10 text messages, e-mails, social media, and other instant messaging
11 systems; and

12 (2) allow the state agency providing the notification
13 to modify the notification based on:

14 (A) the distance of the release to the person
15 receiving the notification; and

16 (B) the projected movement of the release.

17 (f) An alert issued by the toxic chemical emergency alert
18 system must include:

19 (1) each area affected by the release, including a
20 geographic display of the severity of the threat posed by the
21 release;

22 (2) a link to an Internet website or other message
23 system that maintains current information on each affected area;

24 (3) a link to an Internet website or other message
25 system that describes a symptom of any illness caused by the release
26 that may require emergency medical treatment;

27 (4) the chemicals involved in and toxicity of the

1 release;

2 (5) the projected movement of the release; and

3 (6) instructions for protection from exposure to the
4 release or for reducing exposure to the release.

5 (g) The state emergency response commission shall review
6 and modify the toxic chemical emergency alert system, as
7 appropriate, every four years.

8 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2019, the state
9 emergency response commission, as defined in Section 505.004,
10 Health and Safety Code, shall establish the toxic chemical
11 emergency alert system as required by Section 505.017, Health and
12 Safety Code, as amended by this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.