

By: Darby

H.B. No. 2819

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing an Advisory Committee for the TexNet Monitoring Program.

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

SECTION 1. Add new Chapter 157 to the Education Code to read as follows:

CHAPTER 157. TexNet Seismic Monitoring Advisory Committee

Sec. 157.001 DEFINITION. In this Chapter, the "TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program" means the program administered by the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology which oversees an array of equipment for a seismic network to study seismic events in Texas.

Sec. 157.002 TexNet Advisory Committee.

(1) For as long as the TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program receives funds from the State of Texas, there shall be a TexNet Advisory Committee composed of ten members, three to be appointed by the Governor, three to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, three to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one to be an employee of the Texas Railroad Commission who specializes in seismology, geomechanical engineering, reservoir engineering or another related field and is appointed by the Executive Director of the Texas Railroad Commission. At least one appointment each from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker must be from the oil and gas industry. No person affiliated with or under contract for services under this program with the Bureau of Economic Geology may

1 serve as a voting member of the Advisory Committee.

2 (2) The TexNet Economic Advisory Committee shall:

3 (a) Develop in consultation with Bureau of Economic Geology  
4 staff a program of work for the TexNet program and any affiliated  
5 research efforts to include acquisition and deployment of  
6 equipment, contracting with vendors, determine scope of research  
7 program and any other use of funds appropriated by the Legislature  
8 for the TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program and any associated  
9 research.

10 (b) Approve an annual budget for the use funds appropriated  
11 by the Legislature to the TexNet Seismic Monitoring Program;

12 (c) provide oversight and input on the  
13 acquisition, deployment and operation of new and existing Program  
14 equipment;

15 (d) Prepare a biennial report to be delivered the House  
16 Energy Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Economic  
17 Development Committees on or before December 1 of even numbered  
18 years regarding the use of the funds, a complete listing and  
19 accounting of all research funded through the program including a  
20 listing of contractors, itemized budget for each program element,  
21 complete listing of geographic coverage of the Program, important  
22 research undertaken and any findings or progress of the research  
23 for the Program, and recommendations related to the ongoing  
24 operations and requirements of the Program;

25 (e) Ensure that there is a monthly transmission of the data  
26 collected by the seismic equipment to the Incorporated Research  
27 Institutes for Seismology database; and

1        (f) Receive quarterly updates from the Bureau of Economic  
2 Geology regarding the progress of the program, expenditures made in  
3 connection with the Program as approved by the TexNet Advisory  
4 Committee, and any other information related to the program  
5 requested of the Bureau of Economic Geology.

6        SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.