By:  Walle, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 2345

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2019; April 17, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Water & Rural Affairs; May 19, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 19, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Perry           X

Creighton       X

Alvarado        X

Johnson         X

Kolkhorst       X

Rodríguez       X

Taylor          X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2345 By:  Rodríguez

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter E, Chapter 86, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 86.82 to read as follows:

Sec. 86.82.  INSTITUTE FOR A DISASTER RESILIENT TEXAS. (a) In this section, "institute" means the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas.

(b)  The Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas is a component of Texas A&M University.

(c)  The institute is under the management and direction of the board.

(d)  The institute shall:

(1)  develop data analytics tools to support disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery by the state, its political subdivisions, and the public;

(2)  create and maintain web-based analytical and visual tools to communicate disaster risks and ways to reduce those risks, including tools that work on the level of individual parcels of land;

(3)  provide evidence-based information and solutions to aid in the formation of state and local partnerships to support disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery;

(4)  collect, display, and communicate comprehensive flood-related information, including applicable updated inundation maps, for use by decision-makers and the public; and

(5)  collaborate with institutions of higher education, as that term is defined by Section 61.003, state agencies, local governments, and other political subdivisions to accomplish the purposes of this section.

(e)  The institute may employ personnel, including experts in planning, engineering, hydrology, ecology, and economics.

(f)  The institute may accept a gift or grant from any public or private source for the benefit of the institute.

SECTION 2.  The Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas is required to implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the institute may, but is not required to, implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that purpose.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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