

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 34

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a statewide disaster alert system.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. STATEWIDE DISASTER ALERT SYSTEM

Sec. 418.201. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "alert system" means the statewide disaster alert system developed and implemented under this subchapter.

Sec. 418.202. ESTABLISHMENT OF ALERT SYSTEM. (a) With the cooperation of the office of the governor and other appropriate agencies in this state, the division shall develop and implement a statewide alert system to be activated in the event of a disaster affecting any location in this state.

(b) The alert system may be operated in conjunction with any other emergency alert system required by federal or state law. The alert system must notify persons statewide of a disaster affecting any location in this state. The notification must be provided through:

(1) public and commercial television or radio broadcasts;

(2) a system of dynamic message signs located across the state; and

(3) reverse 9-1-1 calls, text messages, e-mails,

1 social media, and other instant messaging systems.

2 (c) The division shall allow persons to register for a
3 preferred method of receiving the notification described by
4 Subsection (b)(3).

5 Sec. 418.203. ACTIVATION OF ALERT SYSTEM. (a) When the
6 division determines that a disaster has occurred or that the
7 occurrence or threat of disaster is imminent or is notified of a
8 declaration of disaster under Section 418.014, the division shall
9 immediately activate the alert system under this subchapter.

10 (b) The division shall issue updated notifications for the
11 duration of the disaster.

12 Sec. 418.204. CONTENT OF ALERT SYSTEM NOTIFICATION. (a) A
13 notification issued under the alert system must include all
14 information necessary to:

15 (1) enable a person who may be affected by the disaster
16 to make informed decisions regarding the person's safety; and

17 (2) enable a person in another location in this state
18 to assist an affected person.

19 (b) The notification must include:

20 (1) real-time information regarding the availability
21 of gas, food, lodging, 24-hour pharmacy services, and medical care
22 and the disposition of a deceased individual;

23 (2) for a hurricane, the category classification of
24 the hurricane, including updated information on changes in the
25 category classification, the expected time and location of landfall
26 for the hurricane, and other detailed information about the
27 hurricane; and

1 (3) other information the division determines
2 appropriate.

3 Sec. 418.205. TERMINATION OF ALERT SYSTEM. The division
4 shall terminate the activation of the alert system when:

5 (1) the division determines that:

6 (A) the threat or danger has passed; or

7 (B) the disaster has been addressed to the extent
8 that emergency conditions no longer exist; or

9 (2) the governor terminates the state of disaster
10 declared under Section [418.014](#).

11 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
12 of this Act, the public safety director of the Texas Division of
13 Emergency Management shall implement Subchapter I, Chapter [418](#),
14 Government Code, as added by this Act.

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