

By: Dominguez

H.B. No. 1873

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a report by the Texas Division of Emergency Management regarding building trade services following disasters.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 418.054 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.054. REPORT ON BUILDING TRADE SERVICES FOLLOWING DISASTERS. (a) Not later than November 1, 2020, the division shall submit a report to members of the legislature on improving the oversight, accountability, and availability of building trade services following disasters. The report must include:

(1) the number and economic impact of tradespeople in communities affected by a disaster;

(2) strategies for using a workforce that has been trained in a United States Department of Labor Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program or Registered Apprenticeship Program to increase the availability of tradespeople, including plumbers and electricians, following a disaster;

(3) approaches to increase prosecutions of alleged fraud relating to building trade services offered following a disaster, including wage theft and worker misclassification; and

(4) methods to encourage performance bond requirements in contracts for building trade services to be performed following a disaster.

1       (b) The division shall consult with appropriate state  
2 entities, including the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and  
3 Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, local governments,  
4 trade associations, United States Department of Labor Registered  
5 Apprenticeship Programs, and law enforcement groups in preparing  
6 the report described by Subsection (a).

7       (c) The report described by Subsection (a) must include the  
8 methodology of the contents of the report, including the type and  
9 nature of information provided by the entities described by  
10 Subsection (b).

11       (d) This section expires January 1, 2021.

12       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.