

By: Morrison, Lozano, Stephenson, Herrero,  
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H.B. No. 2305

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a work group on enhancing the training and  
3 credentialing of emergency management personnel.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

6 (1) "Disaster" has the meaning assigned by Section  
7 [418.004](#), Government Code.

8 (2) "Emergency management director" and "emergency  
9 management coordinator" mean the director and coordinator,  
10 respectively, designated under Section [418.1015](#), Government Code.

11 (3) "Work group" means the work group established  
12 under Section 2 of this Act.

13 SECTION 2. WORK GROUP. The Texas Division of Emergency  
14 Management shall establish a work group of persons knowledgeable on  
15 emergency management to study and develop a proposal for enhancing  
16 the training and credentialing of emergency management directors,  
17 emergency management coordinators, and other emergency management  
18 personnel on the state or local level.

19 SECTION 3. STUDY AND PROPOSAL. (a) As part of the study and  
20 proposal under Section 2 of this Act, the work group shall:

21 (1) assess the training and credentials necessary for  
22 emergency management directors, emergency management coordinators,  
23 and other emergency management personnel on the state or local  
24 level to effectively oversee the response to and recovery from a

1 disaster, including reviewing current required training courses;  
2 and

3 (2) consult with institutions of higher education, as  
4 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, on the development of  
5 degree programs in emergency management in addition to the programs  
6 that exist in this state on the effective date of this Act.

7 (b) In conducting the assessment required by Subsection  
8 (a)(1) of this section, the work group shall consider:

9 (1) whether the differences in geography, population,  
10 and critical infrastructure between emergency management  
11 directors' or emergency management coordinators' jurisdictions  
12 warrant different levels of training and credentialing;

13 (2) whether the legislature should enact laws  
14 requiring an emergency management director or emergency management  
15 coordinator to participate in emergency management training and  
16 credentialing before overseeing the response to and recovery from a  
17 disaster;

18 (3) whether to include in any training required under  
19 Subdivision (2) of this subsection information on disaster finance,  
20 damage assessment, disaster contracting, debris management, and  
21 skills needed to participate in federal emergency management  
22 programs;

23 (4) whether to implement incentives for emergency  
24 management directors, emergency management coordinators, and any  
25 other emergency management personnel to complete additional  
26 training and continuing education; and

27 (5) proposals for paying the cost for training for

1 emergency management directors and emergency management  
2 coordinators that is more rigorous than the training required by  
3 law for the directors and coordinators on the effective date of this  
4 Act.

5 (c) Not later than November 1, 2020, the work group shall  
6 submit the proposal required under this section to:

7 (1) members of the legislature; and

8 (2) the governor.

9 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. The work group is abolished and this  
10 Act expires January 1, 2021.

11 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
12 1, 2019.