

By: Morrison

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, in consultation with the Texas A&M
2 Engineering Extension Service, current required training courses;
3 and

4 (2) consult with Texas A&M University and other
5 institutions of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003,
6 Education Code, as appropriate, on the development of degree
7 programs in emergency management in addition to the programs that
8 exist in this state on the effective date of this Act.

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

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

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

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

25 (4) whether to implement incentives for emergency
26 management directors, emergency management coordinators, and any
27 other emergency management personnel to complete additional

1 training and continuing education; and

2 (5) proposals for paying the cost for training for
3 emergency management directors and emergency management
4 coordinators that is more rigorous than the training required by
5 law for the directors and coordinators on the effective date of this
6 Act.

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

9 (1) members of the legislature; and

10 (2) the governor.

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

13 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
14 1, 2019.