

AN ACT

relating to information and communication of governmental and other entities regarding disasters and health and human services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 418.054, 418.055, 418.056, 418.057, 418.058, and 418.059 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.054. COORDINATING 9-1-1 TEXT MESSAGE CAPABILITY.

The division, in consultation with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, shall coordinate state and local government efforts to make 9-1-1 emergency service capable of receiving text messages from a cellular telephone or other wireless communication device.

Sec. 418.055. SOCIAL MEDIA USE DURING AND AFTER DISASTERS.

The division, in consultation with any state agency or private entity the division determines is appropriate, shall develop standards for the use of social media as a communication tool by governmental entities during and after a disaster. The standards must:

(1) require state agencies, political subdivisions, first responders, and volunteers that use social media during and after a disaster to post consistent and clear information;

(2) optimize the effectiveness of social media use during and after a disaster; and

(3) require that certain official social media

1 accounts be used during and after a disaster only for providing
2 credible sources of information.

3 Sec. 418.056. DISASTER MOBILE APPLICATION. (a) The
4 division shall develop a mobile application for wireless
5 communication devices to communicate critical information during a
6 disaster directly to disaster victims and first responders.

7 (b) The mobile application may provide information on:

8 (1) road and weather conditions during a disaster; and

9 (2) disaster response and recovery activities.

10 Sec. 418.057. DISASTER WEB PORTAL. The division shall
11 develop a comprehensive disaster web portal. The web portal must:

12 (1) provide disaster information to the public,
13 including information on programs and services available to
14 disaster victims and funding for and expenditures of disaster
15 assistance programs;

16 (2) include information on disaster response and
17 recovery activities; and

18 (3) provide information on obtaining assistance from
19 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, state agencies, organized
20 volunteer groups, and any other entities providing disaster
21 assistance.

22 Sec. 418.058. USE OF DATA ANALYTICS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

23 To the extent feasible, the division shall use data analytics
24 software to integrate data from federal, state, local, and
25 nongovernmental sources to more effectively manage disaster
26 response and recovery.

27 Sec. 418.059. STUDY ON STANDARD COMMUNICATION FORMAT. (a)

1 To improve the state's response to disasters, the division shall
2 conduct a study on the use of a standard communication format by
3 first responders to create a common interoperable operating
4 framework during a disaster. The study must:

5 (1) examine the costs and benefits of promoting the
6 use of a standard communication format to create a comprehensive
7 common operating framework that is interoperable across networks;

8 (2) identify any costs that first responders may incur
9 in acquiring or upgrading equipment or services complying with a
10 standard communication format; and

11 (3) identify necessary actions to adopt a standard
12 communication format.

13 (b) Not later than September 1, 2020, the division shall
14 submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the
15 legislature a report on the findings of the study.

16 (c) This section expires December 1, 2020.

17 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
18 amended by adding Section 418.127 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 418.127. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMUNITY OUTREACH. To
20 the extent practicable, the following entities shall conduct
21 community outreach, including public awareness campaigns, and
22 education activities on disaster preparedness each year:

23 (1) municipalities and counties;

24 (2) the department, including the division;

25 (3) the Texas Education Agency;

26 (4) the office of the comptroller;

27 (5) the Texas Department of Insurance;

- 1 (6) the Texas Department of Transportation;
- 2 (7) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
3 Affairs;
- 4 (8) the Health and Human Services Commission; and
- 5 (9) the Department of State Health Services.

6 SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Sections 418.193 and 418.194 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 418.193. PURCHASE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMODITY
9 ITEMS FOR DISASTER PURPOSES. A public safety entity, as defined by
10 47 U.S.C. Section 1401, or a county hospital, public hospital, or
11 hospital district may purchase commodity items through the
12 Department of Information Resources in accordance with Section
13 2157.068 if the public safety entity, hospital, or hospital
14 district finds that the purchase of those commodity items will
15 assist the public safety entity, hospital, or hospital district in
16 providing disaster education or preparing for a disaster.

17 Sec. 418.194. CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN ENTITIES FOR DISASTER
18 PURPOSES. (a) In this section, "consolidated telecommunications
19 system" has the meaning assigned by Section 2170.001(a).

20 (b) A public safety entity, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Section
21 1401, or a governmental entity of another state may contract with
22 the Department of Information Resources for use of the consolidated
23 telecommunications system in accordance with Section 2170.004 if
24 the public safety entity or governmental entity finds that the use
25 of the consolidated telecommunications system will assist the
26 entity in providing disaster education or preparing for a disaster.

27 SECTION 4. Section 531.0312(a), Government Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (a) The Texas Information and Referral Network at the
3 commission is the program responsible for the development,
4 coordination, and implementation of a statewide information and
5 referral network that integrates existing community-based
6 structures with state and local agencies. The network must:

7 (1) include information relating to transportation
8 services provided to clients of state and local agencies;

9 (2) be capable of assisting with statewide disaster
10 response and emergency management, including through the use of
11 interstate agreements with out-of-state call centers to ensure
12 preparedness and responsiveness;

13 (3) include technology capable of communicating with
14 clients of state and local agencies using electronic text
15 messaging; and

16 (4) include a publicly accessible Internet-based
17 system to provide real-time, searchable data about the location and
18 number of clients of state and local agencies using the system and
19 the types of requests made by the clients.

20 SECTION 5. Section 2157.068(j), Government Code, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 (j) The following entities may purchase commodity items
23 through the department, and be charged a reasonable administrative
24 fee, as provided by this section:

25 (1) the Electric Reliability Council of Texas;

26 (2) the Lower Colorado River Authority;

27 (3) a private school, as defined by Section 5.001,

1 Education Code;

2 (4) a private or independent institution of higher
3 education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; [~~or~~]

4 (5) a volunteer fire department, as defined by Section
5 152.001, Tax Code;

6 (6) subject to Section 418.193, a public safety
7 entity, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Section 1401; or

8 (7) subject to Section 418.193, a county hospital,
9 public hospital, or hospital district.

10 SECTION 6. Section 2170.004, Government Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 Sec. 2170.004. CONTRACTS WITH ENTITIES OTHER THAN STATE
13 AGENCIES. The department may contract for use of the consolidated
14 telecommunications system with:

15 (1) each house of the legislature;

16 (2) a legislative agency;

17 (3) an agency that is not a state agency as defined by
18 Section 2151.002;

19 (4) a political subdivision, including a county,
20 municipality, or district;

21 (5) a private institution of higher education
22 accredited by a recognized accrediting agency, as defined by
23 Section 61.003, Education Code, that:

24 (A) engages in distance learning, as defined by
25 Section 57.021, Utilities Code; and

26 (B) receives federal funds for distance learning
27 initiatives; [~~and~~]

1 (6) an assistance organization, as defined by Section
2 [2175.001](#);

3 (7) subject to Section 418.194, a public safety
4 entity, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Section 1401; and

5 (8) subject to Section 418.194, a governmental entity
6 of another state.

7 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2325 was passed by the House on April 11, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2325 on May 23, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 3, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2325 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor