

1-1 By: Metcalf, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Hancock) H.B. No. 2325
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2019;
1-3 April 17, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Business & Commerce; May 10, 2019, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8,
1-6 Nays 0; May 10, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16			X	
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2325 By: Hancock

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to information and communication of governmental and other
1-22 entities regarding disasters and health and human services.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
1-25 amended by adding Sections 418.054, 418.055, 418.056, 418.057,
1-26 418.058, and 418.059 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 418.054. COORDINATING 9-1-1 TEXT MESSAGE CAPABILITY.
1-28 The division, in consultation with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
1-29 Service, shall coordinate state and local government efforts to
1-30 make 9-1-1 emergency service capable of receiving text messages
1-31 from a cellular telephone or other wireless communication device.

1-32 Sec. 418.055. SOCIAL MEDIA USE DURING AND AFTER DISASTERS.
1-33 The division, in consultation with any state agency or private
1-34 entity the division determines is appropriate, shall develop
1-35 standards for the use of social media as a communication tool by
1-36 governmental entities during and after a disaster. The standards
1-37 must:

1-38 (1) require state agencies, political subdivisions,
1-39 first responders, and volunteers that use social media during and
1-40 after a disaster to post consistent and clear information;

1-41 (2) optimize the effectiveness of social media use
1-42 during and after a disaster; and

1-43 (3) require that certain official social media
1-44 accounts be used during and after a disaster only for providing
1-45 credible sources of information.

1-46 Sec. 418.056. DISASTER MOBILE APPLICATION. (a) The
1-47 division shall develop a mobile application for wireless
1-48 communication devices to communicate critical information during a
1-49 disaster directly to disaster victims and first responders.

1-50 (b) The mobile application may provide information on:

1-51 (1) road and weather conditions during a disaster; and

1-52 (2) disaster response and recovery activities.

1-53 Sec. 418.057. DISASTER WEB PORTAL. The division shall
1-54 develop a comprehensive disaster web portal. The web portal must:

1-55 (1) provide disaster information to the public,
1-56 including information on programs and services available to
1-57 disaster victims and funding for and expenditures of disaster
1-58 assistance programs;

1-59 (2) include information on disaster response and
1-60 recovery activities; and

2-1 (3) provide information on obtaining assistance from
2-2 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, state agencies, organized
2-3 volunteer groups, and any other entities providing disaster
2-4 assistance.

2-5 Sec. 418.058. USE OF DATA ANALYTICS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT.
2-6 To the extent feasible, the division shall use data analytics
2-7 software to integrate data from federal, state, local, and
2-8 nongovernmental sources to more effectively manage disaster
2-9 response and recovery.

2-10 Sec. 418.059. STUDY ON STANDARD COMMUNICATION FORMAT. (a)
2-11 To improve the state's response to disasters, the division shall
2-12 conduct a study on the use of a standard communication format by
2-13 first responders to create a common interoperable operating
2-14 framework during a disaster. The study must:

2-15 (1) examine the costs and benefits of promoting the
2-16 use of a standard communication format to create a comprehensive
2-17 common operating framework that is interoperable across networks;

2-18 (2) identify any costs that first responders may incur
2-19 in acquiring or upgrading equipment or services complying with a
2-20 standard communication format; and

2-21 (3) identify necessary actions to adopt a standard
2-22 communication format.

2-23 (b) Not later than September 1, 2020, the division shall
2-24 submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the
2-25 legislature a report on the findings of the study.

2-26 (c) This section expires December 1, 2020.

2-27 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
2-28 amended by adding Section 418.127 to read as follows:

2-29 Sec. 418.127. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMUNITY OUTREACH. To
2-30 the extent practicable, the following entities shall conduct
2-31 community outreach, including public awareness campaigns, and
2-32 education activities on disaster preparedness each year:

2-33 (1) municipalities and counties;

2-34 (2) the department, including the division;

2-35 (3) the Texas Education Agency;

2-36 (4) the office of the comptroller;

2-37 (5) the Texas Department of Insurance;

2-38 (6) the Texas Department of Transportation;

2-39 (7) the Texas Department of Housing and Community

2-40 Affairs;

2-41 (8) the Health and Human Services Commission; and

2-42 (9) the Department of State Health Services.

2-43 SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
2-44 amended by adding Sections 418.193 and 418.194 to read as follows:

2-45 Sec. 418.193. PURCHASE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMODITY
2-46 ITEMS FOR DISASTER PURPOSES. A public safety entity, as defined by
2-47 47 U.S.C. Section 1401, or a county hospital, public hospital, or
2-48 hospital district may purchase commodity items through the
2-49 Department of Information Resources in accordance with Section
2-50 2157.068 if the public safety entity, hospital, or hospital
2-51 district finds that the purchase of those commodity items will
2-52 assist the public safety entity, hospital, or hospital district in
2-53 providing disaster education or preparing for a disaster.

2-54 Sec. 418.194. CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN ENTITIES FOR DISASTER
2-55 PURPOSES. (a) In this section, "consolidated telecommunications
2-56 system" has the meaning assigned by Section 2170.001(a).

2-57 (b) A public safety entity, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Section
2-58 1401, or a governmental entity of another state may contract with
2-59 the Department of Information Resources for use of the consolidated
2-60 telecommunications system in accordance with Section 2170.004 if
2-61 the public safety entity or governmental entity finds that the use
2-62 of the consolidated telecommunications system will assist the
2-63 entity in providing disaster education or preparing for a disaster.

2-64 SECTION 4. Section 531.0312(a), Government Code, is amended
2-65 to read as follows:

2-66 (a) The Texas Information and Referral Network at the
2-67 commission is the program responsible for the development,
2-68 coordination, and implementation of a statewide information and
2-69 referral network that integrates existing community-based

3-1 structures with state and local agencies. The network must:

3-2 (1) include information relating to transportation

3-3 services provided to clients of state and local agencies;

3-4 (2) be capable of assisting with statewide disaster

3-5 response and emergency management, including through the use of

3-6 interstate agreements with out-of-state call centers to ensure

3-7 preparedness and responsiveness;

3-8 (3) include technology capable of communicating with

3-9 clients of state and local agencies using electronic text

3-10 messaging; and

3-11 (4) include a publicly accessible Internet-based

3-12 system to provide real-time, searchable data about the location and

3-13 number of clients of state and local agencies using the system and

3-14 the types of requests made by the clients.

3-15 SECTION 5. Section 2157.068(j), Government Code, is amended

3-16 to read as follows:

3-17 (j) The following entities may purchase commodity items

3-18 through the department, and be charged a reasonable administrative

3-19 fee, as provided by this section:

- 3-20 (1) the Electric Reliability Council of Texas;
- 3-21 (2) the Lower Colorado River Authority;
- 3-22 (3) a private school, as defined by Section 5.001,
- 3-23 Education Code;
- 3-24 (4) a private or independent institution of higher
- 3-25 education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; [~~or~~]
- 3-26 (5) a volunteer fire department, as defined by Section
- 3-27 152.001, Tax Code;
- 3-28 (6) subject to Section 418.193, a public safety
- 3-29 entity, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Section 1401; or
- 3-30 (7) subject to Section 418.193, a county hospital,
- 3-31 public hospital, or hospital district.

3-32 SECTION 6. Section 2170.004, Government Code, is amended to

3-33 read as follows:

3-34 Sec. 2170.004. CONTRACTS WITH ENTITIES OTHER THAN STATE

3-35 AGENCIES. The department may contract for use of the consolidated

3-36 telecommunications system with:

- 3-37 (1) each house of the legislature;
- 3-38 (2) a legislative agency;
- 3-39 (3) an agency that is not a state agency as defined by
- 3-40 Section 2151.002;
- 3-41 (4) a political subdivision, including a county,
- 3-42 municipality, or district;
- 3-43 (5) a private institution of higher education
- 3-44 accredited by a recognized accrediting agency, as defined by
- 3-45 Section 61.003, Education Code, that:
- 3-46 (A) engages in distance learning, as defined by
- 3-47 Section 57.021, Utilities Code; and
- 3-48 (B) receives federal funds for distance learning
- 3-49 initiatives; [~~and~~]
- 3-50 (6) an assistance organization, as defined by Section
- 3-51 2175.001;
- 3-52 (7) subject to Section 418.194, a public safety
- 3-53 entity, as defined by 47 U.S.C. Section 1401; and
- 3-54 (8) subject to Section 418.194, a governmental entity
- 3-55 of another state.

3-56 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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