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H.B. No. 2345

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to resources to facilitate disaster mitigation, response,  
and recovery.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 16, Water Code, is amended  
by adding Section 16.061 to read as follows:

Sec. 16.061. FLOOD MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY. The board  
shall:

(1) create an inventory of flood mitigation and  
resiliency projects;

(2) develop a method of prioritizing projects  
described by Subdivision (1); and

(3) coordinate with the Institute for a Disaster  
Resilient Texas, created under Section 86.82, Education Code.

SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 86, Education Code, is  
amended by adding Section 86.82 to read as follows:

Sec. 86.82. INSTITUTE FOR A DISASTER RESILIENT TEXAS. (a)  
In this section, "institute" means the Institute for a Disaster  
Resilient Texas.

(b) The Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas is a  
component of Texas A&M University.

(c) The institute is under the management and direction of  
the board.

(d) The institute shall:

1           (1) develop data analytics tools to support disaster  
2 planning, mitigation, response, and recovery by the state, its  
3 political subdivisions, and the public;

4           (2) create and maintain web-based analytical and  
5 visual tools to communicate disaster risks and ways to reduce those  
6 risks, including tools that work on the level of individual parcels  
7 of land;

8           (3) provide evidence-based information and solutions  
9 to aid in the formation of state and local partnerships to support  
10 disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery;

11           (4) collect, display, and communicate comprehensive  
12 flood-related information, including applicable updated inundation  
13 maps, for use by decision-makers and the public;

14           (5) discuss, study, and test ideas for flood planning  
15 and mitigation; and

16           (6) collaborate with other components of The Texas A&M  
17 University System, institutions of higher education, as that term  
18 is defined by Section 61.003, state agencies, local governments,  
19 and other political subdivisions to accomplish the purposes of this  
20 section.

21           (e) The institute may employ personnel, including experts  
22 in planning, engineering, hydrology, ecology, and economics.

23           (f) The institute may accept a gift or grant from any public  
24 or private source for the benefit of the institute.

25           SECTION 3. (a) In this Act, "committee" means the Flood  
26 Event Partnership Options Special Study Committee.

27           (b) The Flood Event Partnership Options Special Study

1 Committee is established and consists of nine persons appointed by  
2 the governor to represent the flooding-related interests of the  
3 following:

- 4 (1) state agencies;
- 5 (2) federal agencies;
- 6 (3) local governments, including counties and  
7 municipalities;
- 8 (4) conservation and reclamation districts and other  
9 special purpose districts with authority over water resources or  
10 waterways; and
- 11 (5) nonprofit entities.

12 (c) The governor shall appoint persons to serve on the  
13 committee not later than October 1, 2019.

14 (d) The committee shall conduct a study of the appropriate  
15 structure, means of administration, and membership of state-local  
16 partnerships to address flooding events in this state.

17 (e) The study must address:

18 (1) which state and local entities are interested in  
19 and capable of participating in effective partnerships to prevent,  
20 mitigate, or address flooding events in this state;

21 (2) the role that flood planning at the watershed  
22 level may play in a state-local partnership's efforts to prevent,  
23 mitigate, or address flooding events in this state;

24 (3) the possible negative effects efforts in a local  
25 area to prevent, mitigate, or address flooding events may have in  
26 neighboring areas;

27 (4) whether state-local partnerships to prevent,

1 mitigate, or address flooding events in this state may function  
2 more effectively on a required basis or voluntary basis and how the  
3 organization and structure of the partnerships may differ according  
4 to whether it is a required or voluntary relationship;

5 (5) what incentives are available or may be made  
6 available to encourage effective state-local partnerships to  
7 prevent, mitigate, or address flooding events in this state;

8 (6) what manner of funding is available or may be made  
9 available to foster effective state-local partnerships to prevent,  
10 mitigate, or address flooding events in this state;

11 (7) appropriate roles for various partners in  
12 state-local partnerships to prevent, mitigate, or address flooding  
13 events in this state;

14 (8) the most effective types of projects a state-local  
15 partnership could propose to prevent, mitigate, or address flooding  
16 events; and

17 (9) which information is best applied by state-local  
18 partnerships to prevent, mitigate, or address flooding events and  
19 how that information may most effectively be gathered and shared.

20 (f) On the request of the committee, The Texas A&M  
21 University System shall provide the committee with assistance,  
22 necessary support staff, and facilities to conduct meetings.

23 (g) The committee shall deliver to the governor, the  
24 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
25 and each member of the legislature a report on the determinations of  
26 the committee based on the study conducted under this section not  
27 later than December 1, 2020. The committee shall deliver to the

1 governor, the lieutenant governor, or a member of the legislature  
2 related information on request.

3 (h) The committee is abolished, and this section expires May  
4 1, 2021.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.