

By: Murr

H.B. No. 4067

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a work group to study issues that impede the removal of wet debris.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Work group" means the work group established under this Act.

(2) "Wet debris" means natural or man-made debris located in water bodies including lakes, rivers, streams, bays, wetlands and tidal areas that result from a disaster as defined by Section 418.004, Government Code.

SECTION 2. WORK GROUP ESTABLISHED. (a) The work group shall be composed of representatives of local, state, and federal governmental entities and private entities who are appointed by the governor from a list of candidates submitted by the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) The work group shall consist of, at a minimum, representatives of:

(1) the Texas Department of Emergency Management;

(2) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

(4) the Texas Department of Transportation;

(5) the Texas General Land Office;

(6) the Texas Historical Commission;

1 (7) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
2 Administration;

3 (8) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

4 (9) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

5 (10) local government stakeholders.

6 (c) The Texas Department of Emergency Management will act as
7 Group Leader for the work group.

8 (d) The work group shall consist of no more than 21 nor less
9 than 13 members.

10 (e) Appointments to the work group under Subsection (a) of
11 this section must be made not later than November 1, 2019.

12 SECTION 3. WORK GROUP DUTIES. (a) The work group shall
13 conduct a study on issues that impede the removal of wet debris.

14 (b) The study conducted under Subsection (a) of this section
15 must include:

16 (1) identification of wet debris removal categories
17 for water bodies in this state;

18 (2) identification of current jurisdictions of the
19 local, state, federal and private entities responsible for wet
20 debris removal;

21 (3) identification of concurrent, joint or
22 overlapping roles and responsibilities of the local, state, federal
23 and private entities responsible for wet debris removal;

24 (4) identification of the applicable laws for each wet
25 debris category;

26 (5) identification of funding sources applicable to
27 each wet debris removal category;

1 (6) identification of recurring issues encountered in
2 this state that impede wet debris removal; and

3 (7) recommendations for:

4 (A) minimizing issues that impede wet debris
5 removal;

6 (B) clarifying local, state, federal and private
7 entities' roles and responsibilities for wet debris removal; and

8 (c) educating statewide stakeholders on the
9 results of this study.

10 SECTION 4. REPORT. Not later than November 1, 2020, the
11 work group shall submit a written report to the members of the
12 legislature with the results of the study required under Section 3
13 of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires and the work
15 group is abolished January 1, 2021.

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