

By: Kolkhorst, et al.
(Morrison)

S.B. No. 6

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 6:

By: Goodwin

C.S.S.B. No. 6

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to emergency and disaster management, response, and recovery.

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

SECTION 1. Section 418.005, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(c-1) The training course provided under this section related to the emergency management responsibilities of officers of political subdivisions must include training based on the disaster response guide as required by Section 418.054(b).

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 418.054, 418.055, 418.056, and 418.057 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.054. DISASTER RESPONSE GUIDE. (a) The division shall develop a model guide for local officials regarding disaster response and recovery. The guide must provide a comprehensive approach to disaster recovery by local officials and include information on:

- (1) contracting for debris removal;
- (2) obtaining federal disaster funding;
- (3) coordinating the availability and construction of short-term and long-term housing; and
- (4) obtaining assistance from local, state, and federal volunteer organizations.

1 (b) The division, in coordination with the Texas A&M
2 AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension
3 Service, shall provide training based on the disaster response
4 guide as a part of the emergency management training course
5 provided under Section 418.005.

6 Sec. 418.055. CATASTROPHIC DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
7 TRAINING. (a) The division, in consultation with any other state
8 agencies selected by the division, shall develop a catastrophic
9 debris management plan and model guide for use by political
10 subdivisions in the event of a disaster.

11 (b) The plan must:

12 (1) provide a guide for clearance and disposal of
13 debris caused by a disaster, including information on preparing for
14 debris removal before a disaster; and

15 (2) include:

16 (A) provisions for the use of trench burners and
17 air curtain incinerators of vegetative debris, including
18 identifying sources of equipment for use immediately following a
19 disaster; and

20 (B) contracting standards and a model contract
21 for use in procuring debris removal services following a disaster.

22 (c) The division shall consult with the comptroller about
23 including a contract for debris removal services on the schedule of
24 multiple award contracts developed under Subchapter I, Chapter
25 2155, or in another cooperative purchasing program administered by
26 the comptroller.

27 (d) The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, in

1 coordination with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,
2 shall establish a training program for state agencies and political
3 subdivisions on the use of trench burners in debris removal.

4 Sec. 418.056. WET DEBRIS STUDY GROUP. (a) In this
5 section, "study group" means the wet debris study group established
6 under this section.

7 (b) The wet debris study group is established and composed
8 of representatives of the division, any other state agencies
9 selected by the division, and local and federal governmental
10 entities.

11 (c) The chief of the division serves as chair of the study
12 group.

13 (d) The study group shall study issues related to preventing
14 the creation of wet debris and best practices for clearing wet
15 debris following a disaster, including:

16 (1) the creation of maintenance programs for bodies of
17 water in this state;

18 (2) issues related to the clearance of wet debris on
19 private property following a disaster; and

20 (3) potential sources of funding for the clearance of
21 wet debris following a disaster.

22 (e) Not later than November 1, 2020, the study group shall
23 submit a report containing recommendations on the issues described
24 by Subsection (d) to each member of the legislature.

25 (f) The study group is abolished and this section expires
26 January 1, 2021.

27 Sec. 418.057. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP. (a) In

this section:

(1) "Emergency management director" and "emergency management coordinator" mean the director and coordinator, respectively, designated under Section 418.1015.

(2) "Work group" means the work group established under this section.

(b) The division shall establish a work group of persons knowledgeable on emergency management to study and develop a proposal for enhancing the training and credentialing of emergency management directors, emergency management coordinators, and any other emergency management personnel.

(c) As part of the study and proposal under Subsection (b), the work group shall:

(1) assess the training and credentials necessary for emergency management directors, emergency management coordinators, and any other emergency management personnel to effectively oversee the response to and recovery from a disaster;

(2) review training courses that are required for emergency management directors, emergency management coordinators, and any other emergency management personnel in this state on September 1, 2019; and

(3) consult with institutions of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, on the development of degree programs in emergency management in addition to the programs that exist in this state on September 1, 2019.

(d) In conducting the assessment required by Subsection (c)(1), the work group shall consider:

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

5 (2) whether the legislature should enact laws
6 requiring an emergency management director or emergency management
7 coordinator to participate in emergency management training and
8 credentialing before overseeing the response to and recovery from a
9 disaster;

10 (3) whether to include in any recommended emergency
11 management training under Subdivision (2) information on disaster
12 finance, damage assessment, disaster contracting, debris
13 management, and the skills needed to participate in federal
14 emergency management programs;

15 (4) whether to implement incentives for emergency
16 management directors, emergency management coordinators, and any
17 other emergency management personnel to complete additional
18 training and continuing education; and

19 (5) proposals for paying the cost for training for
20 emergency management directors and emergency management
21 coordinators that is more rigorous than the training required by
22 law for the directors and coordinators on September 1, 2019.

23 (e) Not later than November 1, 2020, the work group shall
24 submit the proposal required under this section to the governor,
25 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and
26 members of the legislature.

27 (f) The work group is abolished and this section expires

1 January 1, 2021.

2 SECTION 3. (a) In this section:

3 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services
4 Commission.

5 (2) "Division" means the Texas Division of Emergency
6 Management.

7 (b) The commission and the division shall conduct a study to
8 determine the feasibility of developing:

9 (1) a single intake form that would compile all
10 information needed to obtain disaster assistance from multiple
11 state and federal programs for an individual who needs assistance
12 as a result of a disaster; and

13 (2) an automated intake system for collecting the
14 information.

15 (c) The commission and the division shall coordinate with
16 the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other appropriate state
17 and federal agencies to conduct the study under Subsection (b) of
18 this section. The commission and the division must determine
19 whether the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other
20 appropriate state and federal agencies will accept the single
21 intake form.

22 (d) Not later than September 1, 2020, the commission and the
23 division shall prepare and submit a written report to the
24 legislature containing the findings of the study conducted under
25 Subsection (b) of this section and any recommendations to the
26 legislature.

27 (e) This section expires January 1, 2021.

1 SECTION 4. Not later than January 1, 2020, the Texas
2 Division of Emergency Management shall develop the catastrophic
3 debris management plan and model guide required by Section 418.055,
4 Government Code, as added by this Act.

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.