87R2923 RDS-D

By:  Thierry H.B. No. 1922

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a state plan for responding to pandemics.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 418.0423 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.0423.  PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN. (a) In this section, "pandemic" means an emerging infectious disease threat that has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

(b)  The division shall prepare and keep current a pandemic response plan. The plan may include provisions for:

(1)  consulting infectious disease experts regarding:

(A)  risk assessment;

(B)  identification of the pathogen; and

(C)  key questions about the pathogen that may affect the size, scale, and design of the response;

(2)  preventing and minimizing injury and damage caused by a pandemic;

(3)  prompt and effective response to a pandemic;

(4)  emergency relief;

(5)  identifying areas and populations particularly vulnerable to the occurrence of a pandemic;

(6)  communicating with governmental and private entities, including entities listed in Section 418.051, to facilitate coordination and collaboration for the efficient and effective planning and execution of a pandemic response plan;

(7)  organizing federal, state, and local pandemic response activities;

(8)  assisting local officials in designing local pandemic response plans;

(9)  preparing and distributing to appropriate state and local officials catalogs of federal, state, and private assistance programs; and

(10)  other necessary matters relating to pandemics.

(c)  In preparing and revising the pandemic response plan, the division shall seek the assistance of:

(1)  any necessary federal, state, or local governmental entity;

(2)  medical experts specializing in infectious disease; and

(3)  community leaders and business, labor, agriculture, civic, and volunteer organizations.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.