87R5127 RDS-D

By:  Thierry H.B. No. 1983

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to statewide preparedness and long-term recovery strategies for certain issues arising from a pandemic or other disaster.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 418.004(1), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1)  "Disaster" means the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination, volcanic activity, pandemic, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, riot, hostile military or paramilitary action, extreme heat, cybersecurity event, other public calamity requiring emergency action, or energy emergency.

SECTION 2.  Section 418.054(g), Government Code, as added by Chapter 602 (S.B. 799), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is amended to read as follows:

(g)  The advisory council shall:

(1)  advise the division on policies, rules, and program operations to assist businesses in recovering from a disaster;

(2)  advise the division on the state resources and services needed to assist businesses in recovering from a catastrophic loss of electric power; [~~and~~]

(3)  propose solutions to address inefficiencies or problems in the state or local governmental disaster response with respect to impact on businesses and the economy; and

(4)  propose solutions to mitigate medical supply chain problems and nursing and physician staff shortages that may occur during a disaster.

SECTION 3.  Section 418.054, Government Code, as added by Chapters 576 (S.B. 289) and 1018 (H.B. 6), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e)  The disaster recovery task force shall address long-term solutions to issues arising from a disaster that are specific to a pandemic or epidemic, including unemployment issues and rental policies and other housing issues.

SECTION 4.  To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.