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H.B. No. 632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of an advisory committee for the
3 TexNet seismic monitoring program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 67, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 67.72 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 67.72. TEXNET TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) In
8 this section, "program" means the TexNet seismic monitoring program
9 administered by the bureau.

10 (b) The TexNet Technical Advisory Committee is established
11 as an advisory committee within the bureau.

12 (c) The advisory committee consists of nine members
13 appointed by the governor who work or reside in this state,
14 including:

15 (1) one representative of the Railroad Commission of
16 Texas who specializes in seismology, geomechanical engineering,
17 reservoir engineering, or another related field recommended to the
18 governor by the executive director of the Railroad Commission of
19 Texas; and

20 (2) at least three representatives from the oil and
21 gas industry, not to include the representative appointed under
22 Subdivision (1).

23 (d) The governor shall designate a member of the advisory
24 committee as the chair of the advisory committee to serve in that

1 capacity at the pleasure of the governor.

2 (e) A person affiliated with the bureau or under contract
3 for services with the bureau may not serve as a voting member of the
4 advisory committee.

5 (f) The director of the bureau shall serve, ex officio, as a
6 nonvoting member of the advisory committee.

7 (g) The advisory committee shall:

8 (1) in coordination with the bureau, develop
9 recommendations for a program of work to assist the program and any
10 research efforts affiliated with the program in accomplishing the
11 goals of the program, including recommendations regarding:

12 (A) the acquisition and deployment of equipment;

13 (B) contracting with vendors;

14 (C) determining the scope of research programs
15 associated with the program; and

16 (D) determining the scope of any use of funds
17 appropriated by the legislature for the program or associated
18 research;

19 (2) review and approve or reject expenditures made in
20 connection with the program;

21 (3) prepare and approve an annual budget for the use of
22 any funds appropriated for the program by the legislature;

23 (4) provide oversight and input on the acquisition,
24 deployment, and operation of new and existing program equipment;

25 (5) ensure that there is a monthly transmission of the
26 data collected by seismic equipment operated under the program to
27 the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology database;

1 and

2 (6) meet with the bureau quarterly to discuss the
3 progress of the program, expenditures made in connection with the
4 program, and any other information related to the program that the
5 advisory committee finds necessary.

6 (h) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year,
7 the advisory committee and the bureau jointly shall prepare and
8 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of
9 the house of representatives a report that includes:

10 (1) a review of the use of any funds appropriated for
11 the program by the legislature;

12 (2) a complete listing and accounting of all research
13 funded through the program, including:

14 (A) a list of contractors employed under the
15 program;

16 (B) an itemized budget for each program element;

17 and

18 (C) a list of the geographic coverage of the
19 program; and

20 (3) recommendations related to the ongoing operations
21 and requirements of the program.

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