

By: Darby

H.B. No. 632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

(c) The advisory committee consists of nine members  
appointed by the governor, including:

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

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

(d) The governor shall designate a member of the advisory  
committee as the chair of the advisory committee to serve in that  
capacity at the pleasure of the governor.

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

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

6       (g) The advisory committee shall:

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

11                   (A) the acquisition and deployment of equipment;

12                   (B) contracting with vendors;

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 and

1           (6) solicit from the bureau quarterly updates  
2 regarding the progress of the program, expenditures made in  
3 connection with the program, and any other information related to  
4 the program that the advisory committee finds necessary.

5           (h) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,  
6 the advisory committee shall prepare and submit to the governor,  
7 the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of  
8 representatives a report that includes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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