

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 1983

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to statewide preparedness and long-term recovery
3 strategies for certain issues arising from a pandemic or other
4 disaster.

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

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

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

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

20 (g) The advisory council shall:

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

24 (2) advise the division on the state resources and

1 services needed to assist businesses in recovering from a
2 catastrophic loss of electric power; ~~and~~

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

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

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

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

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

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