

By: Landgraf

H.B. No. 2891

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishment of the Texas Emergency Alert Management System (TEAMS).

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

SECTION 1. Section 411.004, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 411.004. DUTIES AND POWERS OF COMMISSION. The commission shall:

(1) formulate plans and policies for:

(A) enforcement of state criminal, traffic, and safety laws;

(B) prevention of crime;

(C) detection and apprehension of persons who violate laws; and

(D) education of citizens of this state in the promotion of public safety and the observance of law;

(2) organize the department and supervise its operation;

(3) adopt rules considered necessary for carrying out the department's work;

(4) maintain records of all proceedings and official orders; ~~and~~

(5) biennially submit a report of its work to the governor and legislature, including the commission's and director's

1 recommendations; and

2 (6) notwithstanding any other law, the department has
3 authority to manage emergency alert systems in the state.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by
5 adding Subchapter L-1 to read as follows:

6 SUBCHAPTER L-1. TEXAS EMERGENCY ALERT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TEAMS)

7 Sec. 411.371. DEFINITION. In this subchapter:

8 (1) "alert management system" means the Texas
9 Emergency Alert Management System (TEAMS) established under this
10 subchapter.

11 Sec. 411.372. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEXAS
12 ALERT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TEAMS). With the cooperation of the Texas
13 Division of Emergency Management, the Texas Department of
14 Transportation, the Commission on State Emergency Communications,
15 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Health and Human
16 Services Commission, the Texas Department of State Health Services,
17 the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Railroad Commission of
18 Texas, the State Office of Risk Management, the office of the
19 governor, and other appropriate agencies in this state, the
20 department shall identify potential threats of regional or
21 statewide significance and develop and implement a plan to alert
22 the public by use of the Federal Wireless Emergency Alert System in
23 the event that the director, chief of the Texas Division of
24 Emergency Management appointed under Section 418.041, and a state
25 elected official identify a need to alert Texans to an imminent
26 threat to public health or safety.

27 Sec. 411.373. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The director is the

1 statewide coordinator of the alert management system.

2 (b) The director shall adopt rules and issue directives as
3 necessary to ensure proper implementation of the alert management
4 system.

5 (c) The director shall prescribe forms to use in requesting
6 activation of an alert regarding an emergency of statewide or
7 regional significance.

8 Sec. 411.374. DEPARTMENT TO RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS. (a) The
9 department shall recruit public and commercial television and radio
10 broadcasters, mobile telephone service providers, private
11 commercial entities, state or local governmental entities, the
12 public, and other appropriate persons to assist in developing and
13 implementing the alert management system.

14 (b) The department may enter into agreements with
15 participants in the alert management system to provide necessary
16 support for the alert management system.

17 Sec. 411.375. ACTIVATION. (a) On the request of a state
18 elected official and a state agency official or law enforcement
19 agency, the department shall investigate the need to activate a
20 statewide or regional alert that is not otherwise authorized by
21 Chapter 411 or 418, Government Code and notify appropriate
22 participants in the alert system as established by rule if
23 director, chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management
24 appointed under Section 418.041, and a state elected official
25 identify a need to alert Texans to an imminent statewide or regional
26 threat to public health or safety

27 Sec. 411.376. STATE AGENCIES. (a) A state agency

1 participating in the alert system shall cooperate with the
2 department and assist in identifying potential threats and
3 developing and implementing the alert management system.

4 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
5 of this Act, the public safety director of the Department of Public
6 Safety of the State of Texas shall adopt rules and issue directives
7 necessary to implement Subchapter L-1, Chapter 411, Government
8 Code, as added by this Act.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.