

By: Paul

H.B. No. 3537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the feasibility of creating and maintaining a coastal
3 barrier system.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) The legislature shall establish a joint
6 interim committee to continue to study the implementation of a
7 coastal barrier system in this state that includes a series of gates
8 and barriers to prevent storm surge damage to gulf beaches or
9 coastal ports, industry, or property.

10 (b) The committee is composed of:

11 (1) the members of the standing committee of the
12 senate that has primary jurisdiction over natural resources;

13 (2) the members of the standing committee of the house
14 of representatives that has primary jurisdiction over land and
15 resource management;

16 (3) two members of the senate appointed by the
17 lieutenant governor, each of whom represents a district in a county
18 that borders the Gulf of Mexico; and

19 (4) two members of the house of representatives
20 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, each of
21 whom represents a district in a county that borders the Gulf of
22 Mexico.

23 (c) The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
24 representatives shall jointly designate a chair or, alternatively,

1 designate two co-chairs from among the committee membership.

2 (d) The committee may adopt rules necessary to carry out the
3 committee's duties under this section.

4 (e) Not later than December 1, 2022, the committee shall
5 report to the governor and the legislature the findings of the study
6 and any recommendations developed by the committee under this
7 section.

8 (f) The committee is abolished and this Act expires January
9 9, 2023.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.