

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a state plan for responding to pandemics.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 418.0423 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.0423. PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN. (a) In this section, "pandemic" means an emerging infectious disease threat that has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

(b) The division shall prepare and keep current a pandemic response plan. The plan may include provisions for:

(1) consulting infectious disease experts regarding:

(A) risk assessment;

(B) identification of the pathogen; and

(C) key questions about the pathogen that may affect the size, scale, and design of the response;

(2) preventing and minimizing injury and damage caused by a pandemic;

(3) prompt and effective response to a pandemic;

(4) emergency relief;

(5) identifying areas and populations particularly vulnerable to the occurrence of a pandemic;

(6) communicating with governmental and private entities, including entities listed in Section 418.051, to facilitate coordination and collaboration for the efficient and

1 effective planning and execution of a pandemic response plan;

2 (7) organizing federal, state, and local pandemic
3 response activities;

4 (8) assisting local officials in designing local
5 pandemic response plans;

6 (9) preparing and distributing to appropriate state
7 and local officials catalogs of federal, state, and private
8 assistance programs; and

9 (10) other necessary matters relating to pandemics.

10 (c) In preparing and revising the pandemic response plan,
11 the division shall seek the assistance of:

12 (1) any necessary federal, state, or local
13 governmental entity;

14 (2) medical experts specializing in infectious
15 disease; and

16 (3) community leaders and business, labor,
17 agriculture, civic, and volunteer organizations.

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