

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 570

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Division of Emergency Management of the potential effects of droughts and wildfires in this state.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "division" means the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

SECTION 2. STUDY. (a) The division shall conduct a study regarding the potential effects of droughts and wildfires in this state over the next 50 years. The study must include an assessment of:

(1) the projected ecological effects of droughts and wildfires, including:

(A) harm to plants, animals, and water bodies;
and

(B) damage to state parks and other public lands;

(2) the projected effects of droughts on the temperature in urban areas, including:

(A) increases in the demand for energy and water;

(B) demands on public health facilities;

(C) any decline in business productivity; and

(D) any decline in tourism;

(3) the projected economic effects of droughts and wildfires, including:

(A) agricultural losses; and

- 1 (B) damage to infrastructure;
- 2 (4) vulnerabilities to droughts and wildfires;
- 3 (5) the availability of local resources to combat
- 4 wildfires and adapt to droughts; and
- 5 (6) potential mitigation strategies for reducing the
- 6 risk of and damage caused by droughts and wildfires.

7 (b) In conducting the study, the division shall solicit and

8 consider information from:

- 9 (1) the Department of Public Safety;
- 10 (2) the Department of Agriculture;
- 11 (3) the Parks and Wildlife Department;
- 12 (4) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; and
- 13 (5) other agencies, municipalities, and environmental
- 14 organizations as necessary.

15 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than March 1, 2024, the

16 division shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the

17 speaker of the house of representatives, and each standing

18 committee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over the

19 division, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of

20 Agriculture, the Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas

21 Commission on Environmental Quality a written report that includes

22 a summary of the study and any legislative recommendations based on

23 the study.

24 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2025.

25 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect

26 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members

27 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas

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1 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
2 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.