

AN ACT

relating to creation of the gulf coast protection account to be administered by the General Land Office.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 31, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 31.070 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.070. GULF COAST PROTECTION ACCOUNT. (a) The gulf coast protection account is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund administered by the land office under this section and rules adopted by the land office.

(b) The gulf coast protection account consists of money from:

(1) gifts, donations, and grants, including federal grants; and

(2) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to the account by the legislature.

(c) The land office shall deposit to the credit of the gulf coast protection account any federal money received by the state for the protection of the gulf coast, to the extent permitted by federal law.

(d) Money in the gulf coast protection account may be used only to pay for expenditures that:

(1) are eligible for credit towards the non-federal match of the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility

1 Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact
2 Statement issued by the Galveston District, Southwestern Division,
3 of the United States Army Corps of Engineers;

4 (2) comply with the terms of a local cooperation
5 agreement executed by the land office and the Gulf Coast Protection
6 District established under Chapter 9502, Special District Local
7 Laws Code; and

8 (3) are for projects that are necessary or useful for
9 the protection of the portion of the gulf coast located within the
10 territory of the district.

11 (e) The legislature finds that the expenditure of money in
12 the gulf coast protection account in accordance with Subsection (d)
13 serves a public purpose.

14 (f) The expenditure of money in the gulf coast protection
15 account is subject to audit by the state auditor.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2416 was passed by the House on April 18, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 6, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2416 on May 24, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2416 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 18, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor