

By: Thompson of Brazoria

H.B. No. 2759

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the TexMesonet Hydrometeorology Network and creation of the TexMesonet Advisory Committee.

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

SECTION 1. Section 16.012(b), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The executive administrator shall:

(1) determine suitable locations for future water facilities, including reservoir sites;

(2) determine suitable, cost-effective water supply alternatives on a regional basis, including voluntary means of encouraging aggressive water conservation;

(3) locate land best suited for irrigation;

(4) make estimates of the cost of proposed irrigation works and the improvement of reservoir sites;

(5) examine and survey reservoir sites;

(6) monitor the effects of fresh water inflows upon the bays and estuaries of Texas;

(7) monitor instream flows;

(7-a) monitor hydrometeorological conditions;

(8) lead a statewide effort, in coordination with federal, state, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and other interested parties, to develop a network for collecting and disseminating water resource-related information

that is sufficient to support assessment of ambient water conditions statewide;

(9) make recommendations for optimizing the efficiency and effectiveness of water resource data collection and dissemination as necessary to ensure that basic water resource data are maintained and available for Texas; and

(10) make basic data and summary information developed under this subsection accessible to state agencies and other interested persons.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 16, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 16.026 to read as follows:

Sec. 16.026. TEXMESONET HYDROMETEOROLOGY NETWORK; TEXMESONET ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) In this section, "network" means the TexMesonet Hydrometeorology Network.

(b) The executive administrator shall establish the TexMesonet Hydrometeorology Network to provide a statewide resource for hydrometeorological data and summary information benefiting weather forecasting, flood preparedness, drought monitoring, wildfire management, water resources planning, water conservation, agricultural readiness and productivity, industrial readiness, and related business readiness and productivity across this state.

(c) The network shall:

(1) establish a series of stations throughout this state to monitor hydrometeorological conditions;

(2) coordinate mesoscale, evapotranspiration, and soil moisture monitoring efforts in this state by:

1 (A) collecting, receiving, analyzing,
2 processing, and facilitating access to basic hydrometeorological
3 data; and

4 (B) developing and disseminating products,
5 tools, and summary information related to that data;

6 (3) serve as the centralized repository for
7 hydrometeorological data in this state; and

8 (4) provide appropriate technical assistance related
9 to the duties described by Subdivisions (1)-(3).

10 (d) The executive administrator may, on behalf of the
11 network, enter into:

12 (1) any agreement with an individual or a federal,
13 state, or local governmental entity to provide site location and
14 access for earth observation stations; and

15 (2) a partnership with a public or private entity to
16 provide additional funding and resources for improved access to and
17 development of hydrometeorological data, products, and tools.

18 (e) Each state agency or political subdivision of this state
19 that collects hydrometeorological information, including public
20 institutions of higher education, shall cooperate with the network
21 in the development of a coordinated, efficient, and effective
22 statewide hydrometeorological data collection and dissemination
23 resource.

24 (f) The executive administrator may establish the
25 TexMesonet Advisory Committee to advise and make recommendations to
26 the executive administrator on ensuring data quality and optimizing
27 the efficiency and effectiveness of hydrometeorological data

collection, product development, and dissemination of data and information. Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the size, composition, or duration of the advisory committee. Members of the advisory committee serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual or necessary expenses incurred in performing functions as a member of the advisory committee subject to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by the General Appropriations Act. The committee may include members representing the following entities or interest groups:

- (1) the office of the state climatologist;
- (2) the National Weather Service;
- (3) existing hydrometeorological networks; and
- (4) other appropriate entities.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.