

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to outdoor warning sirens in flood-prone areas.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 16, Water Code, is amended by adding Subchapter M to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M. OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Sec. 16.501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Flood-prone area" means:

(A) an area of this state included in the governor's disaster declaration of July 22, 2025, issued for the July 2025 floods; or

(B) any other areas of the state as identified by Senate Bill No. 3, 89th Legislature, First Called Session, 2025.

(2) "Outdoor warning siren" means a system that produces a sound designed to alert a person who is outdoors of an imminent disaster and encourage that person to immediately seek shelter or move to higher ground.

Sec. 16.502. OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS REQUIRED IN FLOOD-PRONE AREAS. (a) The board shall identify each area of this state that:

(1) has a history of consistent or severe flooding; and

(2) based on the history under Subdivision (1) and any other factor the board considers relevant, warrants the installation, maintenance, and operation of one or more outdoor

1 warning sirens.

2 (b) Other relevant factors the board may consider in making  
3 determinations under Subsection (a)(2) include, as to each area:

4 (1) loss of human life to flooding;

5 (2) the existence of residences or other dwelling  
6 structures in the flood-prone area; and

7 (3) the potential damage to real or personal property  
8 resulting from a flood.

9 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), for each  
10 flood-prone area, the board shall require the appropriate  
11 municipality or county to install, maintain, and operate one or  
12 more outdoor warning sirens in accordance with the rules adopted by  
13 the board under this section. If the site of the installation is:

14 (1) in the boundaries of a municipality, the  
15 municipality shall install, maintain, and operate the siren; or

16 (2) in the unincorporated area of a county, the county  
17 shall install, maintain, and operate the siren.

18 (d) The board may not require an outdoor warning siren for  
19 an area in which a governmental entity already maintains and  
20 operates an outdoor warning siren that meets the minimum standards  
21 adopted by board rule.

22 (e) Municipalities, counties, and other governmental  
23 entities by written agreement may jointly install, maintain, or  
24 operate an outdoor warning siren in a flood-prone area.

25 (f) The board shall require each county or municipality with  
26 an outdoor warning siren required under this section or any other  
27 governmental entity with an outdoor warning siren in a flood-prone

1 area to regularly test the functionality of the outdoor warning  
2 siren and document the results of those tests.

3 (g) The board's determinations under this section on  
4 whether an area is a flood-prone area or requires an outdoor warning  
5 siren are final and binding.

6 (h) The board shall adopt rules and procedures to implement  
7 this section, including:

8 (1) procedures for the operation of an outdoor warning  
9 siren in a flood-prone area of this state;

10 (2) minimum standards for an outdoor warning siren  
11 installed, maintained, or operated in a flood-prone area; and

12 (3) minimum standards for a backup operating system  
13 capable of powering an outdoor warning siren in a flood-prone area  
14 that is different from the primary operating system.

15 (i) The board may consult with other entities when adopting  
16 rules and procedures to implement this section.

17 Sec. 16.503. GRANT PROGRAM FOR REQUIRED OUTDOOR WARNING  
18 SIRENS. (a) Using any money available for that purpose, the board  
19 shall establish and administer a grant program to assist  
20 municipalities, counties, and other governmental entities with  
21 covering the costs of installing outdoor warning sirens required  
22 under Section 16.502.

23 (b) The board shall establish:

24 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

25 (2) grant application procedures;

26 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

27 (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications; and

1           (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant  
2 awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any  
3 conditions of a grant.

4           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
9 legislative session.