

By: Virdell

H.B. No. 286

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report by the Texas Water Development Board,  
in consultation with certain other entities, of risks from and  
solutions to flooding.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Board" means the Texas Water Development Board.

(2) "Regional flood plan" means the regional flood  
plan developed under Section 16.062, Water Code, for the flood  
planning region that includes the upper Guadalupe River basin.

SECTION 2. STUDY AND REPORT. (a) The board, in  
consultation with the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, Kerr County,  
and the City of Kerrville, shall conduct a risk assessment and  
project feasibility study to:

(1) quantify the risk to life and property posed by  
flooding in the upper Guadalupe River basin;

(2) assess potential solutions to mitigate flood risks  
identified under Subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

(3) propose not more than eight projects that will  
help mitigate the flood risks identified under Subdivision (1) of  
this subsection.

(b) In quantifying the risk to life and property under  
Subsection (a)(1) of this section, the board shall:

(1) collect and assess existing data, including the

1 data collected in connection with the regional flood plan, any  
2 integrated flood risk management studies for the area, topographic  
3 data, existing locally developed models, structure inventories,  
4 and hydrologic analyses;

5 (2) update as appropriate the information collected  
6 under Subdivision (1) of this subsection by incorporating the July  
7 4, 2025, weather event; and

8 (3) develop hydraulic models for the major creeks and  
9 rivers within the upper Guadalupe River basin.

10 (c) In assessing potential solutions to mitigate flood  
11 risks under Subsection (a)(2) of this section, the board shall:

12 (1) identify projects that reduce susceptibility to  
13 flooding, including off-river detention storage, on-river dams,  
14 improved evacuation routes, river channel modification, and  
15 improved or new storm drainage systems;

16 (2) develop a hydraulic model for each potential  
17 project to determine the effect of the project with respect to:

18 (A) flood mitigation;

19 (B) water supply;

20 (C) groundwater recharge;

21 (D) recreation; and

22 (E) environmental impacts; and

23 (3) conduct community meetings to gather input and  
24 feedback from residents with respect to the projects.

25 (d) In proposing projects that may help mitigate the flood  
26 risks under Subsection (a)(3) of this section, the board shall:

27 (1) determine the costs and benefits of each project;

1           (2) score and rank the projects based on community  
2 feedback and the costs and benefits of the projects; and

3           (3) to the extent possible, develop design documents  
4 for the highest-ranked projects to expedite the completion of those  
5 projects.

6           (e) At least half of the projects proposed under Subsection  
7 (a)(3) of this section must be projects identified by local  
8 entities.

9           (f) Not later than January 1, 2029, the board shall present  
10 to the legislature a report that contains a summary of the study  
11 conducted under this Act and a description of the projects  
12 identified by the board that would best mitigate flooding in the  
13 upper Guadalupe River basin.

14           SECTION 3. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2030.

15           SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect on the  
16 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.