

By: Perry, et al.
(King, Meyer, Moody, Wilson, Darby, et al.)

S.B. No. 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery;
requiring a license; authorizing fees.

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

SECTION 1. Article 49.10, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
amended by adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(e-1) This subsection expires April 1, 2027.
Notwithstanding Subsections (c) and (e) and Subchapter F, Chapter
264, Family Code, for each body that is the subject of an inquest by
a justice of the peace, the justice may certify an autopsy is
unnecessary if:

(1) the justice determines by clear and convincing
evidence that:

(A) the cause of death was the result of injuries
sustained as a result of a natural disaster; and

(B) the death was not caused by an unlawful act or
omission; and

(2) a person described by Article 49.33(a) is not
otherwise seeking an autopsy, regardless of the person's listed
priority for purposes of that subsection.

SECTION 2. Article 49A.063, Code of Criminal Procedure, as
added by H.B. 1610, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session,
2025, and effective April 1, 2027, is amended by adding Subsection
(c-1) to read as follows:

1 (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsections (b) and (c) and
2 Subchapter F, Chapter 264, Family Code, for each body that is the
3 subject of an inquest by a justice of the peace, the justice may
4 certify an autopsy is unnecessary if:

5 (1) the justice determines by clear and convincing
6 evidence that:

7 (A) the cause of death was the result of injuries
8 sustained as a result of a natural disaster; and

9 (B) the death was not caused by an unlawful act or
10 omission; and

11 (2) a person described by Article 49A.203(a) is not
12 otherwise seeking an autopsy, regardless of the person's listed
13 priority for purposes of that subsection.

14 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 27, Government Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 27.0055 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 27.0055. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN
17 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. (a) This section applies only to a justice
18 of the peace of a county not served by a medical examiner.

19 (b) The Department of State Health Services, in
20 collaboration with the Texas Division of Emergency Management,
21 shall develop for justices of the peace a training program on
22 managing mass fatality events. The training program must include:

23 (1) decision-making protocols for ordering an
24 autopsy;

25 (2) standards for identifying and documenting bodies;
26 and

27 (3) best practices on:

1 (A) collecting and reporting data regarding
2 missing persons;

3 (B) coordinating efforts with multiple
4 governmental agencies during mass fatality events; and

5 (C) providing real-time status updates and
6 notifications for close relatives of a victim of a mass fatality.

7 (c) For purposes of removal under Chapter 87, Local
8 Government Code, "incompetency" in the case of a justice of the
9 peace includes the failure of the justice to successfully complete
10 on or before the first anniversary of the date the justice is first
11 elected the training program developed under this section.

12 (d) The Department of State Health Services may:

13 (1) consult with the Justices of the Peace and
14 Constables Association of Texas in developing the training program
15 required under Subsection (b); and

16 (2) by agreement authorize the Texas Justice Court
17 Training Center to administer the training program.

18 SECTION 4. Section 411.1236, Government Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 411.1236. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD
21 INFORMATION: TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION. (a) The Texas
22 Commission on Fire Protection is entitled to obtain as provided by
23 Subsection (a-1) [from the department] criminal history record
24 information [maintained by the department] that relates to a person
25 who is:

26 (1) an applicant for or holder of a license issued
27 under Subchapter M, Chapter 418, or Chapter 419; or

1 (2) an applicant for employment by or an employee of
2 the commission.

3 (a-1) Subject to Sections 411.087 and 418.459 and
4 consistent with the public policy of this state, the Texas
5 Commission on Fire Protection is entitled to:

6 (1) obtain through the Federal Bureau of Investigation
7 criminal history record information maintained or indexed by that
8 bureau that pertains to an applicant for or holder of a license
9 issued under Subchapter M, Chapter 418; and

10 (2) obtain from the department or any other criminal
11 justice agency in this state criminal history record information
12 maintained by the department or that criminal justice agency that
13 relates to a person described by Subsection (a).

14 (b) The Texas Commission on Fire Protection may not release
15 or disclose to any person criminal history record information
16 obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation under Subsection
17 (a-1)(1). Criminal history record information obtained by the
18 Texas Commission on Fire Protection under Subsection (a-1)(2) [(a)]
19 may not be released to any person or agency except on court order or
20 with the consent of the person who is the subject of the criminal
21 history record information, or as provided by Subsection (c).

22 (c) The Texas Commission on Fire Protection is not
23 prohibited from disclosing criminal history record information
24 obtained under Subsection (a-1)(2) in a criminal proceeding or in a
25 hearing conducted by the commission or by the State Office of
26 Administrative Hearings on behalf of the commission ~~[if the~~
27 ~~information is entered into evidence by the board in an~~

~~administrative, civil, or criminal hearing under Chapter 419].~~

(d) The Texas Commission on Fire Protection shall destroy criminal history record information that is obtained under this section after the information is used for its authorized purpose.

SECTION 5. Subchapter F, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.14104 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.14104. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION: TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. (a) The Texas Division of Emergency Management is entitled to obtain criminal history record information as provided by Subsection (b) that relates to a person who registers as a volunteer for governmental disaster response or recovery operations under Subchapter N, Chapter 418.

(b) Subject to Sections 411.087 and 418.485 and consistent with the public policy of this state, the Texas Division of Emergency Management is entitled to obtain from the department or any other criminal justice agency in this state criminal history record information maintained by the department or that criminal justice agency that relates to a person described by Subsection (a).

(c) Criminal history record information obtained by the Texas Division of Emergency Management under Subsection (b) may not be released or disclosed to any person except on court order or as provided by Subsection (d).

(d) The Texas Division of Emergency Management is not prohibited from disclosing criminal history record information obtained under Subsection (b) in a criminal proceeding.

1 (e) The Texas Division of Emergency Management shall
2 destroy criminal history record information that is obtained under
3 this section after the information is used for its authorized
4 purpose.

5 SECTION 6. Sections 418.005(a) and (b), Government Code,
6 are amended to read as follows:

7 (a) This section applies only to:

8 (1) an elected law enforcement officer [~~or county~~
9 ~~judge,~~] or an appointed public officer of the state or of a
10 political subdivision, who has management or supervisory
11 responsibilities and:

12 (A) whose position description, job duties, or
13 assignment includes emergency management responsibilities; or

14 (B) who plays a role in emergency preparedness,
15 response, or recovery; [~~and~~]

16 (2) an emergency management coordinator designated
17 under Section 418.1015(c);

18 (3) a county judge;

19 (4) a sheriff; and

20 (5) a mayor of a municipality that is not covered by a
21 county's hazard mitigation plan [~~by the emergency management~~
22 ~~director of a county with a population of 500,000 or more~~].

23 (b) Each person described by Subsection (a) shall complete a
24 course of training provided or approved by the division of not less
25 than 16 [~~three~~] hours regarding the responsibilities of state and
26 local governments under this chapter every two years. The initial
27 course of training must be completed not later than the 180th day

after the date the person:

(1) takes the oath of office, if the person is required to take an oath of office to assume the person's duties as a public officer;

(2) otherwise assumes responsibilities as a public officer, if the person is not required to take an oath of office to assume the person's duties; or

(3) is designated as an emergency management coordinator under Section 418.1015(c).

SECTION 7. Section 418.1015, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(e) If a disaster is imminent or occurring or has recently occurred and the presiding officer of the governing body of a county is not able to act as emergency management director for the county because the presiding officer is absent from the county, incapacitated, deceased, or otherwise unavailable, the following persons in the following order of priority, as available, are designated as the emergency management director for the county for purposes of the disaster until the presiding officer becomes available:

(1) the sheriff; or

(2) the county commissioner with the longest period of continuous service on the commissioners court.

(f) If a disaster is imminent or occurring or has recently occurred and the presiding officer of the governing body of an incorporated city is not able to act as emergency management director for the city because the presiding officer is absent from

1 the city, incapacitated, deceased, or otherwise unavailable, the
2 following persons in the following order of priority, as available,
3 are designated as the emergency management director for the city
4 for purposes of the disaster until the presiding officer becomes
5 available:

- 6 (1) the mayor pro tempore of the city;
7 (2) if an elected position, the marshal of the city; or
8 (3) the member of the governing body of the city with
9 the longest period of continuous service on the governing body.

10 (g) Each county and incorporated city by order, ordinance,
11 or other measure shall adopt procedures to implement Subsection (e)
12 or (f), as applicable.

13 SECTION 8. Section [418.106](#), Government Code, is amended by
14 adding Subsections (b-1), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

15 (b-1) In a county with a population of 68,750 or less, a
16 local or interjurisdictional emergency management agency's
17 emergency management plan must include procedures to establish a
18 unified incident command structure for the county and any
19 municipality located in the county.

20 (f) Except as provided by Subsection (g), each local or
21 interjurisdictional emergency management agency shall annually
22 conduct a drill on the agency's emergency management plan. The
23 division shall supervise all emergency management plan drills.

24 (g) If a political subdivision served by a local or
25 interjurisdictional emergency management agency is included in a
26 disaster declaration issued by the governor under Section [418.014](#)
27 or by the president of the United States, the local or

1 interjurisdictional emergency management agency is not required to
2 conduct a drill on the agency's emergency management plan for one
3 year from the date the declaration is initially issued.

4 SECTION 9. Subchapter E, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
5 amended by adding Section 418.1103 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 418.1103. POST-DISASTER AFTER-ACTION REPORT. (a) A
7 local or interjurisdictional emergency management agency for an
8 area that is wholly or partly the subject of a disaster declaration
9 by the governor under this chapter or by the president of the United
10 States shall:

11 (1) complete a post-disaster after-action report on a
12 form prescribed by the division not later than the 60th day after
13 the date a disaster declaration expires or is terminated; and

14 (2) submit the report to the division.

15 (b) The division shall adopt the post-disaster after-action
16 report form required to be completed and submitted under this
17 section.

18 SECTION 10. Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by
19 adding Subchapters M and N to read as follows:

20 SUBCHAPTER M. EMERGENCY MANAGER LICENSES

21 Sec. 418.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

22 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Fire
23 Protection.

24 (2) "Emergency manager" means a person who holds an
25 emergency manager license under this subchapter.

26 (3) "Emergency manager license" means a license issued
27 under this subchapter and includes a bridge, basic, intermediate,

1 advanced, or master license.

2 Sec. 418.452. ADMINISTRATOR; RULES; FEES. (a) The
3 commission shall administer and enforce this subchapter.

4 (b) The commission may adopt rules to implement this
5 subchapter. The division shall adopt rules regarding the minimum
6 requirements for each type of license and the minimum requirements
7 for the continuing education necessary to renew an emergency
8 manager license in order to implement this subchapter.

9 (c) The commission may adopt fees reasonable and necessary
10 to cover the costs of administering this subchapter.

11 Sec. 418.453. DATABASE OF LICENSE HOLDERS. (a) The
12 commission, in coordination with the division, shall establish and
13 maintain records of each person who holds an emergency manager
14 license, including whether the license is valid and whether any
15 disciplinary proceeding is pending.

16 (b) The commission shall make the records under this section
17 available to an emergency management director or the director's
18 associated governmental entity on request.

19 Sec. 418.454. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The division may
20 establish an advisory committee to provide recommendations on the
21 implementation of this subchapter, including on the policies,
22 standards, and curriculum adopted under this subchapter.

23 (b) If established, the committee consists of nine members
24 appointed by the division chief or the chief's designee and must
25 contain at least one emergency manager and a representative of a
26 governmental entity that employs or is associated with an emergency
27 manager.

1 (c) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory committee.

2 Sec. 418.455. LICENSING REQUIREMENT. A person may not
3 serve as an emergency management coordinator under Section
4 418.1015(c) for a period that exceeds six months beginning the day
5 after the date on which the person was designated as an emergency
6 management coordinator, unless the person holds an emergency
7 manager license.

8 Sec. 418.456. ELIGIBILITY FOR EMERGENCY MANAGER LICENSE;
9 ISSUANCE. (a) To be eligible for an emergency manager license, a
10 person must:

11 (1) submit an application to the commission in a form
12 and manner prescribed by the commission;

13 (2) demonstrate that the person meets eligibility
14 criteria under Section 418.457; and

15 (3) not be disqualified based on the person's criminal
16 history, as described by Section 418.458.

17 (b) The commission shall issue a bridge, basic,
18 intermediate, advanced, or master emergency manager license, as
19 appropriate, to an applicant who meets the eligibility requirements
20 prescribed by Subsection (a).

21 Sec. 418.457. EMERGENCY MANAGER LICENSES. (a) To be
22 eligible for a bridge emergency manager license, a person must
23 complete not less than 40 hours of training and instruction on
24 emergency management, which must consist of courses provided or
25 approved by division rule.

26 (b) The division by rule shall establish the minimum
27 eligibility requirements for basic, intermediate, advanced, and

1 master emergency manager licenses, including any minimum hours of
2 training and instruction or years of experience performing the
3 duties of an emergency management coordinator.

4 Sec. 418.458. INELIGIBILITY BASED ON CRIMINAL HISTORY. (a)
5 A person is not eligible for an emergency manager license if the
6 person has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication
7 community supervision for:

8 (1) a felony; or
9 (2) any offense that directly relates to the duties
10 and responsibilities of an emergency management coordinator, as
11 determined by the commission.

12 (b) The commission, in consultation with the division, may
13 adopt rules specifying offenses, other than those described by
14 Subsection (a), a conviction or placement on deferred adjudication
15 community supervision for which would disqualify a person as not
16 eligible for an emergency manager license.

17 Sec. 418.459. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK.
18 (a) The commission may conduct a criminal history check, including
19 a check of any criminal history record information maintained by
20 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in the manner provided by
21 Subchapter F, Chapter 411, on each person who applies for an
22 emergency manager license.

23 (b) For purposes of conducting the criminal history check,
24 the commission may require an applicant to submit a complete and
25 legible set of fingerprints, on a form prescribed by the
26 commission, to the commission or to the department for the purpose
27 of obtaining criminal history record information from the

1 department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2 (c) The commission may require the applicant to pay a fee to
3 cover any costs associated with conducting a criminal history check
4 under this section.

5 Sec. 418.460. ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATIONS. The division by
6 rule may allow an applicant for an emergency manager license to
7 credit military experience, professional experience, education, or
8 another certification toward the eligibility requirements of
9 Section 418.457, including an emergency management credential
10 issued by another state.

11 Sec. 418.461. PROVISION OR APPROVAL OF TRAINING REQUIRED.
12 The division shall provide or approve training, instruction, and
13 courses sufficient to enable a person to meet the licensing and
14 continuing education requirements under this subchapter.

15 Sec. 418.462. EXPIRATION; CONTINUING EDUCATION; RENEWAL.
16 (a) An emergency manager license expires on the first anniversary
17 of the date the license is issued.

18 (b) The commission shall renew an emergency manager license
19 if an emergency manager:

20 (1) completes not less than 16 hours of continuing
21 education on emergency management provided or approved by division
22 rule; and

23 (2) submits an application for renewal to the
24 commission on a form and in a manner prescribed by the commission.

25 (c) The commission by rule may adopt a system under which
26 licenses expire on various dates during the year.

27 Sec. 418.463. DENIAL; SUSPENSION; REVOCATION. (a) The

commission may deny the issuance or renewal of an emergency manager license or suspend or revoke an emergency manager license if a person violates this subchapter or any rule adopted by the division or commission under this subchapter, including being disqualified based on the person's criminal history.

(b) A proceeding under this section is a contested case under Chapter 2001.

SUBCHAPTER N. STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Sec. 418.481. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Local government" means a municipality, a county, a special district or authority, or any other political subdivision of this state.

(2) "Volunteer management system" means the online volunteer registration and management database established under this subchapter.

Sec. 418.482. ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM. The division shall establish and maintain a statewide volunteer registration and management database to register, credential, and manage individuals who volunteer to assist in disaster response or recovery operations at the direction and under the supervision of a state agency or local government.

Sec. 418.483. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS. The volunteer management system must:

- (1) be made available online;
- (2) be maintained and updated regularly with a roster of available volunteers;
- (3) be capable of making and coordinating volunteer

assignments among state, regional, and local governmental entities; and

(4) document the supervision of volunteers and the resources available and necessary to support the volunteers.

Sec. 418.484. USE OF SYSTEM REQUIRED; LIMITATIONS ON REQUIRED REGISTRATION. (a) In this section:

(1) "Community organization active in disaster" is a nonprofit organization that regularly engages in disaster response and recovery operations and regularly prepares for those operations.

(2) "Spontaneous volunteer" means an individual who:
(A) volunteers to assist in disaster response or recovery; and

(B) is not affiliated with voluntary organizations active in disaster or any community organization active in disaster or with a governmental entity.

(3) "Voluntary organizations active in disaster" is a network of nonprofit organizations that coordinate to provide disaster response or recovery services and may include community organizations active in disaster.

(b) The division and each state agency and local government that deploys volunteers in disaster response or recovery operations shall use the volunteer management system to:

(1) credential and deploy the volunteers;

(2) report in the system volunteer activity and requests for assistance during periods when a disaster declaration is in effect; and

1 (3) coordinate volunteer programs by local
2 governments to ensure the programs align with state standards and
3 requirements.

4 (c) Before the division, a state agency, or a local
5 government deploys a spontaneous volunteer to assist in disaster
6 response or recovery operations, the division, state agency, or
7 local government, as applicable, must ensure the spontaneous
8 volunteer is registered with the volunteer management system. An
9 individual who volunteers and is affiliated with a community
10 organization active in disaster or a member or affiliate
11 organization of voluntary organizations active in disaster may not
12 be required to register with the voluntary management system before
13 deployment.

14 (d) The division may waive, wholly or partly, any
15 requirement of this section as necessary to facilitate an urgent
16 response to a disaster.

17 Sec. 418.485. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK.
18 The division may conduct a criminal history check, based on the
19 criminal history record information maintained by the department or
20 any other criminal justice agency in this state, on each person who
21 applies to register as a volunteer under this subchapter.

22 Sec. 418.486. INELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER BASED ON CRIMINAL
23 HISTORY. The division may adopt rules for the denial of a person's
24 application to register in the volunteer management system based on
25 the person's criminal history and for purposes of ensuring public
26 safety and operational integrity.

27 Sec. 418.487. RULES. The division shall adopt rules for

implementing this subchapter, including:

(1) registration and renewal requirements for volunteer registrations;

(2) training and credentialing requirements for particular disaster response or recovery operations that involve specialized training or experience;

(3) procedures for conducting a criminal history check under Section 418.485; and

(4) protocols for deploying volunteers and reporting incidents.

Sec. 418.488. FUNDS; GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. (a) The division may use any available funds to implement this subchapter.

(b) The division may seek and accept gifts, grants, and donations to implement this subchapter.

Sec. 418.489. AGREEMENTS. The division may enter into an agreement with any public or private entity to support volunteer mobilization efforts.

Sec. 418.490. PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTED. Nothing in this subchapter may be construed as prohibiting a real property owner from:

(1) consenting to allowing a volunteer onto the owner's property; or

(2) accepting assistance from the volunteer.

SECTION 11. Chapter 423, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 423.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 423.010. AUTHORITY TO NEUTRALIZE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN DISASTER AREA. (a) In this section:

1 (1) "Disaster" has the meaning assigned by Section
2 418.004.

3 (2) "Disaster area" means a county any part of which
4 is subject to:

5 (A) a disaster declaration issued by:

6 (i) the president of the United States
7 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
8 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.);

9 (ii) the governor under Section 418.014; or

10 (iii) the presiding officer of the
11 governing body of a political subdivision under Section 418.108; or

12 (B) an emergency evacuation order.

13 (3) "Neutralize" means to:

14 (A) cause electronic interference in the
15 functioning of a device for the purpose of disabling the device and
16 may include jamming, hacking, and other similar methods; or

17 (B) physically capture a device for the purpose
18 of disabling the device.

19 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the Department of
20 Public Safety or the Texas Division of Emergency Management may, as
21 authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration or the United
22 States Department of Homeland Security, neutralize an unmanned
23 aircraft operating in a disaster area if:

24 (1) the unmanned aircraft is being operated by a
25 person other than a governmental entity responding to the disaster;
26 and

27 (2) the person does not have authorization from a

1 governmental entity to operate the unmanned aircraft in the
2 disaster area.

3 (c) This section does not authorize the Department of Public
4 Safety or the Texas Division of Emergency Management to neutralize
5 an unmanned aircraft operated over or near a critical
6 infrastructure facility by a person described by Section
7 423.0045(c)(6), (7), (8), or (9).

8 SECTION 12. The heading to Subchapter CC, Chapter 481,
9 Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

10 SUBCHAPTER CC. SMALL- AND MICRO-BUSINESS DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

11 SECTION 13. Section 481.451, Government Code, is amended by
12 amending Subdivisions (3), (4), (6), and (7) and adding Subdivision
13 (8) to read as follows:

14 (3) "Default rate" means the percentage of small- and
15 micro-business disaster recovery loans made that did not meet the
16 payment terms during a period specified by the bank.

17 (4) "Fund" means the small- and micro-business
18 recovery fund established under Section 481.452.

19 (6) "Small- and micro-business [~~Micro-business~~]
20 disaster recovery loan" or "disaster recovery loan" means a loan
21 made by a participating community development financial
22 institution to small businesses or micro-businesses under the
23 program.

24 (7) "Program" means the small- and micro-business
25 disaster recovery loan program established under this subchapter.

26 (8) "Small business" means a corporation,
27 partnership, sole proprietorship, or other legal entity that:

1 (A) is domiciled in this state or has at least 51
2 percent of its employees located in this state;
3 (B) is formed to make a profit;
4 (C) is independently owned and operated; and
5 (D) employs more than 20 and fewer than 100
6 full-time employees.

7 SECTION 14. The heading to Section 481.452, Government
8 Code, is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 481.452. SMALL- AND MICRO-BUSINESS RECOVERY FUND.

10 SECTION 15. Section 481.452(a), Government Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (a) The small- and micro-business recovery fund is a
13 dedicated account in the general revenue fund.

14 SECTION 16. The heading to Section 481.453, Government
15 Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 Sec. 481.453. POWERS OF BANK IN ADMINISTERING SMALL- AND
17 MICRO-BUSINESS RECOVERY FUND.

18 SECTION 17. Section 481.454(b), Government Code, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 (b) The program shall expand access to capital for
21 qualifying small businesses and micro-businesses to create jobs in
22 this state and constitutes a capital access program under
23 Subchapter BB.

24 SECTION 18. Section 481.455, Government Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Sec. 481.455. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION. (a) The bank, under
27 the program, shall provide zero interest loans to eligible

community development financial institutions for purposes of making interest-bearing loans to qualifying small businesses and micro-businesses that have difficulty in accessing capital following a declared disaster.

(a-1) The bank may not provide loans to micro-businesses under this chapter in an amount less than 50 percent of the total amount of all loans provided under the program in a fiscal biennium.

(b) A loan made by an eligible community development financial institution under the program:

(1) must be made to a small business or micro-business that:

(A) is in good standing under the laws of this state; ~~and~~

(B) did not owe delinquent taxes to a taxing unit of this state before the date of the initial issuance of the disaster declaration;

(C) has suffered physical or economic injury as the result of the event leading to the disaster declaration; and

(D) has paid in full any previous loan received under this subchapter;

(2) may not be made to a micro-business that:

(A) has total revenue that exceeds the amount for which no franchise tax is due under Section [171.002\(d\)\(2\)](#), Tax Code;

(B) is a franchise;

(C) is a national chain with operations in this state;

(D) is a lobbying firm; or

(E) is a private equity firm or backed by a private equity firm;

(3) may not have an interest rate higher than the prevailing rate for a similar loan in this state; and

(4) [~~(3)~~] must meet any other criteria provided by this subchapter.

(c) Payments on small- and micro-business disaster recovery loans shall be made directly to the lending community development financial institutions.

(d) All income received on a loan made by a community development financial institution participating in the program is the property of the financial institution. Income received on a loan includes the payment of interest by a borrower small business or micro-business and the administrative fees assessed by the community development financial institution.

(e) A community development financial institution participating in the program shall make payments to the bank on the zero interest loans borrowed by the financial institution under the program quarterly, and the bank or this state is not responsible or liable for any defaults in small- and micro-business disaster recovery loans made by the community development financial institution.

SECTION 19. Subchapter CC, Chapter 481, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 481.4555 to read as follows:

Sec. 481.4555. USES OF LOAN. An eligible small business or micro-business may use a loan received under this subchapter to pay

1 the business's payroll costs, including costs related to the
2 continuation of health care benefits for the business's employees.

3 SECTION 20. Section 481.457(a), Government Code, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 (a) A community development financial institution
6 participating in the program shall report quarterly to the bank:

7 (1) the names of small businesses and micro-businesses
8 that have received a disaster recovery loan;

9 (2) the current balance of all outstanding disaster
10 recovery loans;

11 (3) the default rate on existing disaster recovery
12 loans; and

13 (4) any other information the bank requires.

14 SECTION 21. Section 489.107(c), Government Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 (c) For the small- and micro-business [~~small-business~~]
17 disaster recovery loan program, the report must include a general
18 description of each small business and micro-business for which an
19 applicant was awarded a loan from the fund during the preceding
20 fiscal year.

21 SECTION 22. Subtitle A, Title 8, Health and Safety Code, is
22 amended by adding Chapter 675 to read as follows:

23 CHAPTER 675. MASS FATALITY OPERATIONS

24 Sec. 675.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "department"
25 means the Department of State Health Services.

26 Sec. 675.002. MASS FATALITY OPERATIONS RAPID RESPONSE TEAM.

27 (a) The department, in collaboration with the Texas Division of

1 Emergency Management, shall establish a mass fatality operations
2 rapid response team to immediately on the occurrence of a mass
3 fatality event assess the geographic area where the event occurred
4 for the purposes of:

5 (1) providing information regarding the mass fatality
6 event to public officials and employees who are conducting disaster
7 response or recovery operations, including justices of the peace,
8 emergency management directors and coordinators, and incident
9 commanders; and

10 (2) facilitating early and appropriate activation of
11 mass fatality management resources.

12 (b) The team required by Subsection (a) may be established
13 by interlocal contract.

14 Sec. 675.003. INTEGRATION OF MASS FATALITY OPERATIONS
15 RESPONSE TEAM WITH SEARCH AND RESCUE OR RECOVERY OPERATIONS. Each
16 recognized search and rescue organization or recovery team, law
17 enforcement agency, fire department, including a volunteer fire
18 department, and emergency medical services provider shall
19 coordinate the entity's efforts with the appropriate mass fatality
20 operations response team when deploying in response to a mass
21 fatality event to ensure coordination in the recovery of human
22 bodies and the use of proper documentation, including
23 chain-of-custody documentation.

24 Sec. 675.004. INTEGRATION OF MASS FATALITY OPERATIONS
25 RESPONSE TEAM WITH FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS. (a) In this section,
26 "family assistance center" is a facility established by a state
27 agency or local government following a mass fatality event to

1 coordinate the provision of support services and basic assistance
2 to individuals impacted by the mass fatality event, especially
3 close relatives of a victim of the event.

4 (b) A state agency or local government that establishes a
5 family assistance center following a mass fatality event shall
6 coordinate efforts to provide services at the center with the
7 appropriate mass fatality operations response team.

8 Sec. 675.005. MASS FATALITY DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. (a)
9 The department shall develop and maintain a centralized fatality
10 tracking system for use when deploying a mass fatality operations
11 response team.

12 (b) The system must be capable of:

13 (1) assigning unique case numbers and incident
14 tagging;

15 (2) tracking the chain-of-custody for a human body and
16 associated personal effects; and

17 (3) storing in an easily retrievable manner
18 documentation of an autopsy and identification and release of a
19 human body.

20 SECTION 23. Section 16.062(c), Water Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (c) The board shall designate representatives from each
23 flood planning region to serve as the initial flood planning group.
24 The initial flood planning group may then designate additional
25 representatives to serve on the flood planning group. The initial
26 flood planning group shall designate additional representatives if
27 necessary to ensure adequate representation from the interests in

1 its region, including the public, counties, municipalities,
 2 industries, agricultural interests, environmental interests, small
 3 businesses, electric generating utilities, institutions of higher
 4 education, river authorities, water districts, and water
 5 utilities. The flood planning group shall maintain adequate
 6 representation from those interests. In addition, the board, the
 7 commission, the General Land Office, the Parks and Wildlife
 8 Department, the Department of Agriculture, the State Soil and Water
 9 Conservation Board, and the Texas Division of Emergency Management
 10 each shall appoint a representative to serve as an ex officio member
 11 of each flood planning group.

12 SECTION 24. (a) Notwithstanding Section 1A(a), Chapter 5,
 13 page 1062, Special Laws, Acts of the 46th Legislature, Regular
 14 Session, 1939, or Section [8515.0104](#), Special District Local Laws
 15 Code, as effective April 1, 2027, the Upper Guadalupe River
 16 Authority is subject to a limited review under Chapter [325](#),
 17 Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), during the period in which the
 18 Sunset Advisory Commission reviews state agencies abolished in 2027
 19 but may not be abolished under that chapter. In response to the
 20 Texas Hill Country floods of July 2025, the limited review must
 21 assess the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's:

- 22 (1) governance;
- 23 (2) management, including disaster preparedness and
- 24 response;
- 25 (3) operating structure; and
- 26 (4) compliance with legislative requirements.

27 (b) After the limited review described by Subsection (a) of

1 this section, the Upper Guadalupe River Authority shall be reviewed
2 as provided by Section [8515.0104](#), Special District Local Laws Code,
3 as effective April 1, 2027.

4 (c) This section expires September 1, 2029.

5 SECTION 25. (a) In this section, "work group" means the
6 statewide meteorological data monitoring work group established by
7 Subsection (b) of this section.

8 (b) The statewide meteorological data monitoring work group
9 must include a representative of each of the following entities,
10 designated by the executive head of the entity:

- 11 (1) the Texas Division of Emergency Management;
- 12 (2) the Texas Department of Transportation;
- 13 (3) the Texas Water Development Board;
- 14 (4) Texas Tech University;
- 15 (5) the Center for Water and the Environment at The
16 University of Texas at Austin;
- 17 (6) the Water Engineering Research Center at The
18 University of Texas at Arlington;
- 19 (7) the office of the state climatologist; and
- 20 (8) the Severe Storm Prediction, Education and
21 Evacuation from Disasters Center at Rice University.

22 (c) As needed, the work group may include representatives
23 from the National Weather Service and river authorities of this
24 state.

25 (d) The work group shall develop a plan for implementing a
26 statewide system of flood gauges and other meteorological equipment
27 to provide real-time information to state and local entities to

1 inform emergency management decisions.

2 (e) In developing the plan described by Subsection (d) of
3 this section, the work group shall:

4 (1) incorporate existing mesoscale networks and other
5 meteorological equipment implemented by members of the work group
6 to create a single data hub through which state and local leaders,
7 institutions of higher education, and the general public may access
8 in real time statewide meteorological data;

9 (2) identify areas of this state that lack adequate
10 coverage of flood gauges, weather radar, and other meteorological
11 equipment; and

12 (3) identify projects, including project costs, that
13 address the inadequacies identified in Subdivision (2) of this
14 subsection.

15 (f) Not later than December 1, 2026, the work group shall
16 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
17 house of representatives, and each appropriate standing committee
18 of the legislature a copy of the plan developed under this section.

19 (g) This section expires December 1, 2027.

20 SECTION 26. Subchapter [EE](#), Chapter [481](#), Government Code, is
21 repealed.

22 SECTION 27. A justice of the peace who holds office on the
23 effective date of this Act is not subject to removal as described by
24 Section 27.0055, Government Code, as added by this Act, for failure
25 to successfully complete the required training program until
26 December 1, 2026.

27 SECTION 28. A person who, on the effective date of this Act,

1 is required to complete the training required by Section 418.005,
2 Government Code, as amended by this Act, shall complete that
3 training not later than the 180th day after the effective date of
4 this Act.

5 SECTION 29. As soon as practicable after the effective date
6 of this Act, the Texas Division of Emergency Management shall adopt
7 the post-disaster after-action report form as required by Section
8 418.1103, Government Code, as added by this Act.

9 SECTION 30. (a) Except as otherwise provided by this Act,
10 this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
11 legislative session.

12 (b) Section 418.455, Government Code, as added by this Act,
13 takes effect January 1, 2027.