

AN ACT

relating to outdoor warning sirens in flash flood-prone areas.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 418.027 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.027. GRANT PROGRAM FOR REQUIRED OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS. (a) Using any money available for that purpose, the office of the governor shall establish and administer a grant program to assist municipalities, counties, and other governmental entities with covering the costs of installing outdoor warning sirens required under Section 16.502, Water Code.

(b) The office of the governor shall establish:

(1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;
(2) grant application procedures;
(3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;
(4) procedures for evaluating grant applications; and
(5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any conditions of a grant.

(c) The governor may:

(1) transfer to a state agency any money necessary to carry out the grant program established under this section and the powers and duties established under Subchapter M, Chapter 16, Water Code; and

1 (2) delegate to a state agency the authority to
2 administer the grant program established under this section,
3 including any authority necessary for that state agency to:

4 (A) transfer to an appropriate fund or account
5 administered by the state agency any money transferred to the
6 agency under Subdivision (1); and

7 (B) use money transferred under Subdivision (1)
8 for the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by the state
9 agency in administering this section or Subchapter M, Chapter 16,
10 Water Code.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 16, Water Code, is amended by adding
12 Subchapter M to read as follows:

13 SUBCHAPTER M. OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

14 Sec. 16.501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

15 (1) "Flash flood-prone area" means an area of this
16 state included in the disaster declaration issued by the governor
17 under Section 418.014, Government Code, in response to the July
18 2025 Hill Country floods.

19 (2) "Outdoor warning siren" means a system that
20 produces a sound designed to alert a person who is outdoors of an
21 imminent disaster and encourage that person to immediately seek
22 shelter or move to higher ground and includes sensors, gauges, and
23 all other components essential to the function of the system.

24 Sec. 16.502. OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS REQUIRED IN FLASH
25 FLOOD-PRONE AREAS. (a) The board shall identify each area in a
26 flash flood-prone area that:

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

1 and

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

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

8 (1) loss of human life to flooding;

9 (2) the existence of residences or other dwelling
10 structures in a flash flood-prone area; and

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

13 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), for each area
14 identified under Subsection (a)(2), the appropriate municipality
15 or county shall install, maintain, and operate one or more outdoor
16 warning sirens in accordance with the rules adopted by the board
17 under this section. If the site of the installation is:

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

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

22 (d) An outdoor warning siren is not required for an area in
23 which a governmental entity already maintains and operates an
24 outdoor warning siren that meets the best management practices and
25 guidance adopted by board rule.

26 (e) Municipalities, counties, and other governmental
27 entities by written agreement may jointly install, maintain, or

1 operate an outdoor warning siren required under this section.

2 (f) Each county or municipality with an outdoor warning
3 siren required under this section or any other governmental entity
4 with an outdoor warning siren in a flash flood-prone area shall
5 regularly test the functionality of the outdoor warning siren and
6 document the results of those tests.

7 (g) The board's identification under this section of an area
8 that warrants an outdoor warning siren is final and binding.

9 (h) The board shall adopt rules and procedures to implement
10 this section, including facilitating development of best
11 management practices and guidance:

12 (1) for the operation of an outdoor warning siren in a
13 flash flood-prone area of this state; and

14 (2) for an outdoor warning siren installed,
15 maintained, or operated in a flash flood-prone area, including
16 guidance that an outdoor warning siren be equipped with a backup
17 power source that is different from the siren's primary power
18 source.

19 (i) The board may contract or consult with other entities
20 when adopting rules and procedures to implement this section.

21 (j) The board may not approve financial assistance, other
22 than financial assistance for an outdoor warning siren, including
23 assistance described by Section 418.027, Government Code, for a
24 county or municipality until the county or municipality certifies
25 to the board that it is in compliance with this section.

26 SECTION 3. Section 16.502(j), Water Code, as added by this
27 Act, applies only to an application for financial assistance

1 submitted to the Texas Water Development Board on or after the
2 effective date of this Act.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 3 passed the Senate on August 18, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on August 27, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 3 passed the House, with amendment, on August 26, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 136, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor