

By: Bettencourt, et al.

S.B. No. 3

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. 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 delegate to a state agency the authority to administer the grant program established under this section.

SECTION 2. 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 an area of this state included in the disaster declaration issued by the governor under Section 418.014, Government Code, in response to the July 2025 Hill Country floods.

(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 in a flood-prone area 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 warning sirens.

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

(1) loss of human life to flooding;

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

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

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), for each area

1 identified under Subsection (a)(2), the board shall require the
2 appropriate municipality or county to install, maintain, and
3 operate one or more outdoor warning sirens in accordance with the
4 rules adopted by the board under this section. If the site of the
5 installation is:

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

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

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

14 (e) Municipalities, counties, and other governmental
15 entities by written agreement may jointly install, maintain, or
16 operate an outdoor warning siren required under this section.

17 (f) The board shall require each county or municipality with
18 an outdoor warning siren required under this section or any other
19 governmental entity with an outdoor warning siren in a flood-prone
20 area to regularly test the functionality of the outdoor warning
21 siren and document the results of those tests.

22 (g) The board's determinations under this section on
23 whether an area requires an outdoor warning siren are final and
24 binding.

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

27 (1) procedures for the operation of an outdoor warning

1 siren in a flood-prone area of this state; and

2 (2) minimum standards for an outdoor warning siren
3 installed, maintained, or operated in a flood-prone area, including
4 standards requiring that an outdoor warning siren be equipped with
5 a backup power source that is different from the siren's primary
6 power source.

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

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