

1-1 By: Bettencourt, et al. S.B. No. 3
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed August 15, 2025; August 15, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Finance;
1-4 August 15, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas
1-5 14, Nays 0; August 15, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Huffman	X			
1-9	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
1-10	Alvarado	X			
1-11	Bettencourt	X			
1-12	Campbell	X			
1-13	Creighton			X	
1-14	Flores	X			
1-15	Hall	X			
1-16	Kolkhorst	X			
1-17	Nichols	X			
1-18	Paxton	X			
1-19	Perry	X			
1-20	Schwertner	X			
1-21	West	X			
1-22	Zaffirini	X			

1-23 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-24 AN ACT

1-25 relating to outdoor warning sirens in flood-prone areas.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
1-28 amended by adding Section 418.027 to read as follows:

1-29 Sec. 418.027. GRANT PROGRAM FOR REQUIRED OUTDOOR WARNING
1-30 SIRENS. (a) Using any money available for that purpose, the office
1-31 of the governor shall establish and administer a grant program to
1-32 assist municipalities, counties, and other governmental entities
1-33 with covering the costs of installing outdoor warning sirens
1-34 required under Section 16.502, Water Code.

1-35 (b) The office of the governor shall establish:
1-36 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;
1-37 (2) grant application procedures;
1-38 (3) guidelines relating to grant amounts;
1-39 (4) procedures for evaluating grant applications; and
1-40 (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant
1-41 awarded under the program and ensuring compliance with any
1-42 conditions of a grant.

1-43 (c) The governor may delegate to a state agency the
1-44 authority to administer the grant program established under this
1-45 section.

1-46 SECTION 2. Chapter 16, Water Code, is amended by adding
1-47 Subchapter M to read as follows:

1-48 SUBCHAPTER M. OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

1-49 Sec. 16.501. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-50 (1) "Flood-prone area" means an area of this state
1-51 included in the disaster declaration issued by the governor under
1-52 Section 418.014, Government Code, in response to the July 2025 Hill
1-53 Country floods.

1-54 (2) "Outdoor warning siren" means a system that
1-55 produces a sound designed to alert a person who is outdoors of an
1-56 imminent disaster and encourage that person to immediately seek
1-57 shelter or move to higher ground.

1-58 Sec. 16.502. OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS REQUIRED IN FLOOD-PRONE
1-59 AREAS. (a) The board shall identify each area in a flood-prone
1-60 area that:

1-61 (1) has a history of consistent or severe flooding;

2-1 and

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

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

2-8 (1) loss of human life to flooding;

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

2-11 (3) the potential damage to real or personal property
 2-12 resulting from a flood.

2-13 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), for each area
 2-14 identified under Subsection (a)(2), the board shall require the
 2-15 appropriate municipality or county to install, maintain, and
 2-16 operate one or more outdoor warning sirens in accordance with the
 2-17 rules adopted by the board under this section. If the site of the
 2-18 installation is:

2-19 (1) in the boundaries of a municipality, the
 2-20 municipality shall install, maintain, and operate the siren; or

2-21 (2) in the unincorporated area of a county, the county
 2-22 shall install, maintain, and operate the siren.

2-23 (d) The board may not require an outdoor warning siren for
 2-24 an area in which a governmental entity already maintains and
 2-25 operates an outdoor warning siren that meets the minimum standards
 2-26 adopted by board rule.

2-27 (e) Municipalities, counties, and other governmental
 2-28 entities by written agreement may jointly install, maintain, or
 2-29 operate an outdoor warning siren required under this section.

2-30 (f) The board shall require each county or municipality with
 2-31 an outdoor warning siren required under this section or any other
 2-32 governmental entity with an outdoor warning siren in a flood-prone
 2-33 area to regularly test the functionality of the outdoor warning
 2-34 siren and document the results of those tests.

2-35 (g) The board's determinations under this section on
 2-36 whether an area requires an outdoor warning siren are final and
 2-37 binding.

2-38 (h) The board shall adopt rules and procedures to implement
 2-39 this section, including:

2-40 (1) procedures for the operation of an outdoor warning
 2-41 siren in a flood-prone area of this state; and

2-42 (2) minimum standards for an outdoor warning siren
 2-43 installed, maintained, or operated in a flood-prone area, including
 2-44 standards requiring that an outdoor warning siren be equipped with
 2-45 a backup power source that is different from the siren's primary
 2-46 power source.

2-47 (i) The board may consult with other entities when adopting
 2-48 rules and procedures to implement this section.

2-49 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-50 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-51 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-52 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-53 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
 2-54 legislative session.

2-55 * * * * *