By:  Sparks, et al. S.B. No. 767

(In the Senate - Filed January 13, 2025; February 7, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs; March 4, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 4, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                     Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Perry                 X

Hancock               X

Birdwell              X

Blanco                X

Gutierrez             X

Hinojosa of Nueces    X

Johnson               X

Kolkhorst             X

Sparks                X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating a database of the firefighting equipment in the state available for use in responding to wildfires.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 418.004, Government Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (15) to read as follows:

(15)  "Forest service" means the Texas A&M Forest Service.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 418.059 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.059.  STATEWIDE DATABASE OF FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT. (a) The forest service shall create and maintain a comprehensive database that shows in real time the statewide inventory of firefighting equipment that is available for use in responding to wildfires.

(b)  The database must:

(1)  include a description of the type of firefighting equipment each fire department in the state has available for use in responding to wildfires;

(2)  include contact information for the fire department that has the equipment;

(3)  be searchable by location and equipment type; and

(4)  be accessible by all fire departments in the state and allow each fire department to update the information in the database regarding the equipment the fire department has available.

(c)  The forest service may assist fire departments who choose to provide equipment information in updating the database annually or as soon as practicable after any change in the availability of the department's firefighting equipment.

(d)  In this section, "fire department" includes a volunteer fire department or an emergency services district.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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