

By: Morales of Harris

H.B. No. 457

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an alert system for notification of the release of toxic
3 chemicals by a manufacturing facility.

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

5 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 505.017, Health and
6 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 505.017. NOTICE ISSUED UNDER EMERGENCIES; TOXIC
8 CHEMICAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM.

9 SECTION 2. Section 505.017, Health and Safety Code, is
10 amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) to read as
11 follows:

12 (c) If the responsible state agency determines that a
13 release will substantially endanger human health or the
14 environment, the agency shall, not later than 30 minutes after
15 making the determination, notify persons in the area in which the
16 facility is located of the release using the alert system
17 established under Subsection (d). When the agency determines a
18 release is no longer a threat to human health or the environment,
19 the agency shall notify persons using the alert system.

20 (d) The state emergency response commission shall develop
21 and maintain a toxic chemical emergency alert system to notify
22 persons in the area in which the facility is located of a release
23 that will substantially endanger human health or the environment.
24 The commission may partner with other state agencies in developing

1 the alert system and shall allow persons to register for a preferred
2 method of receiving a message under the alert system. In developing
3 the alert system, the commission may use as a model the alert
4 systems established by Subchapter L, Chapter 411, Government Code,
5 and Section 51.854, Water Code. The alert system must provide a
6 person with the option of not receiving the alerts.

7 (e) The toxic chemical emergency alert system must:

8 (1) provide notification through reverse 9-1-1 calls,
9 text messages, e-mails, social media, and other instant messaging
10 systems in both English and Spanish; and

11 (2) allow the state agency providing the notification
12 to modify the notification based on:

13 (A) the distance of the release to the person
14 receiving the notification; and

15 (B) the projected movement of the release.

16 (f) An alert issued by the toxic chemical emergency alert
17 system must include:

18 (1) each area affected by the release, including a
19 geographic display of the severity of the threat posed by the
20 release;

21 (2) a link to an Internet website or other message
22 system that maintains current information on each affected area;

23 (3) a link to an Internet website or other message
24 system that describes a symptom of any illness caused by the release
25 that may require emergency medical treatment;

26 (4) the chemicals involved in and toxicity of the
27 release;

1 (5) the projected movement of the release; and
2 (6) instructions for protection from exposure to the
3 release or for reducing exposure to the release.

4 (g) The state emergency response commission shall review
5 and modify the toxic chemical emergency alert system, as
6 appropriate, every four years.

7 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2027, the state
8 emergency response commission, as defined by Section 505.004,
9 Health and Safety Code, shall establish the toxic chemical
10 emergency alert system as required by Section 505.017, Health and
11 Safety Code, as amended by this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.