

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 3634

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.

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

ARTICLE 1. RENAMING OF TERMS IN STATE AGENCY RULES, POLICIES, AND
OTHER MATERIALS

SECTION 1.01. Subtitle B, Title 10, Government Code, is
amended by adding Chapter 2063 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2063. RENAMING GULF OF MEXICO AS GULF OF AMERICA

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 2063.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as
the Renaming of the Gulf of Mexico for State Agency Consistency Act.

Sec. 2063.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to
ensure all state agencies align their rules, policies, and
administrative actions with federal directives or law regarding the
renaming of the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America. This chapter
seeks to safeguard state interests and property rights and provide
for administrative consistency with federal laws, regulations, and
funding mechanisms, while prioritizing public health and safety.

Sec. 2063.003. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "state agency"
means:

(1) a department, commission, board, office, or other
agency that is in the executive branch of state government and that
was created by the constitution or a statute, including an
institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003,

1 Education Code;

2 (2) the legislature or a legislative state agency; or

3 (3) the supreme court, the court of criminal appeals,
4 a court of appeals, a district court, or the Texas Judicial Council
5 or another agency in the judicial branch of state government.

6 Sec. 2063.004. NO IMPAIRMENT ON LAW, RULES, OR PROCEEDINGS
7 INTENDED. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to impair the
8 legal validity or effect of a law or rule that contains a reference
9 to the Gulf of Mexico or a legal proceeding governed by a law or rule
10 containing a reference to the Gulf of Mexico.

11 Sec. 2063.005. NONAPPLICABILITY. This chapter does not
12 apply to a rule, policy, or other material in which renaming the
13 Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America violates a condition of
14 federal law or an executive order on which federal funding,
15 benefits, obligations, or other legal requirements is based.

16 SUBCHAPTER A-1. PUBLIC COMMENT BY GOVERNOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE

17 Sec. 2063.031. PUBLIC COMMENT AND REPORT. (a) Not later
18 than January 1, 2026, the governor, in collaboration with the
19 secretary of state, shall:

20 (1) provide an opportunity for the public to comment
21 on the implementation of this chapter; and

22 (2) produce a report summarizing the public commentary
23 received under Subdivision (1).

24 (b) The period of public comment required by Subsection (a)
25 must be at least 30 days.

26 (c) State agencies and political subdivisions may provide
27 commentary under this section identifying and addressing any

potential challenges to the implementation of this chapter.

Sec. 2063.032. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires January 1, 2027.

SUBCHAPTER B. POWERS AND DUTIES OF STATE AGENCIES IN RENAMING GULF OF MEXICO TO GULF OF AMERICA

Sec. 2063.051. DEADLINE TO RENAME. Not later than April 1, 2026, each state agency shall change each reference to the "Gulf of Mexico" in the state agency's rules, policies, and other materials to the "Gulf of America."

Sec. 2063.052. PRIORITY RENAMING. A state agency shall prioritize the renaming required by Section 2063.051 in rules, policies, and other materials that directly impact public health and safety, homeland security, state sovereignty, and the protection of commerce, including rules, policies, and other materials regarding:

(1) emergency management and disaster response in order to protect lives, property, and critical infrastructure in the Gulf of America region;

(2) the continuity of commercial operations in and around the Gulf of America region to ensure economic stability and key commercial sectors in this state;

(3) public health advisories concerning gulf-related resources, such as fisheries and water quality, in order to protect the well-being of this state's residents;

(4) the coordination with federal and state homeland security agencies to address risks associated with border security, security maritime operations, and potential threats to critical

1 assets, including commercial shipping routes and port facilities in
2 or on the Gulf of America;

3 (5) environmental protection regulations to safeguard
4 the Gulf of America's natural resources, ensuring resilience
5 against threats such as pollution, natural disasters, and
6 disruptions to industries reliant on these resources; and

7 (6) policies that preserve state sovereignty over the
8 management and utilization of Texas coastal resources while
9 supporting trade, commerce, and alignment with federal directives
10 to maintain the economic strength of the region.

11 Sec. 2063.053. RULEMAKING. (a) Except as provided by
12 Subsection (b), a state agency shall adopt, readopt, amend, or
13 repeal the state agency's rules in accordance with the procedures
14 of Chapter 2001 as necessary to change the references to the Gulf of
15 Mexico to the Gulf of America.

16 (b) A state agency is not required to amend a rule under this
17 chapter if the amendment would impose an undue burden or cost on the
18 residents, businesses, or political subdivisions of this state.

19 SUBCHAPTER C. PLANNING; COMPLIANCE; FEDERAL COORDINATION

20 Sec. 2063.101. PLANNING. A state agency shall adopt a plan
21 for performing the state agency's duties under this chapter. The
22 plan must include detailed procedures and documentation of each
23 person's duties under the plan.

24 Sec. 2063.102. COMPLIANCE; DOCUMENTATION OF COSTS. A state
25 agency shall ensure that in performing the state agency's duties
26 under this chapter:

27 (1) the state agency complies with the requirements of

1 any federal law or executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico as
2 the Gulf of America;

3 (2) the expenditures made for purposes of renaming the
4 Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America comply with applicable federal
5 and state laws; and

6 (3) the costs associated with performing the state
7 agency's duties under this chapter are documented.

8 Sec. 2063.103. DATA INTEGRITY AND SECURITY. A state agency
9 shall maintain data integrity and security in performing the state
10 agency's duties under this chapter.

11 Sec. 2063.104. FEDERAL COORDINATION AUTHORIZED. A state
12 agency may coordinate with any federal office or agency in
13 performing the state agency's duties under this chapter.

14 Sec. 2063.105. REPORT ON PROGRESS AND DELAYS. (a) Not
15 later than September 1, 2026, each state agency shall issue a report
16 to the legislature on the progress the state agency has made in
17 implementing this chapter, any challenges the state agency
18 encountered in implementing this chapter, and any issues the agency
19 needs to address to complete implementation of this chapter,
20 including as necessary recommendations for further action to ensure
21 compliance with this chapter.

22 (b) This section expires January 1, 2027.

23 SUBCHAPTER D. FUTURE CHANGES TO NAMES

24 Sec. 2063.151. GOVERNOR AUTHORIZED TO ORDER NAME CHANGE.

25 (a) If federal law or executive order requires governmental
26 entities to rename a place or thing, other than the Gulf of Mexico,
27 the governor by executive order may require each state agency to

1 rename the place or thing under procedures similar to the
2 procedures prescribed by this chapter.

3 (b) The governor may establish procedures for the renaming
4 described by Subsection (a) similar to the procedures under this
5 chapter and establish additional procedures as necessary regarding
6 notice to the public or interagency coordination for purposes of
7 this section.

8 SUBCHAPTER E. ENFORCEMENT

9 Sec. 2063.201. AUDIT BY STATE AUDITOR. (a) The state
10 auditor may review as necessary the operations and financial
11 statements of a state agency to ensure the state agency is in
12 compliance with this chapter.

13 (b) After a review conducted under this section, the state
14 auditor shall issue recommendations for corrective actions to the
15 state agency.

16 Sec. 2063.202. INJUNCTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL. The
17 attorney general may bring an action for injunctive relief against
18 a state agency that violates or is threatening to violate this
19 chapter to compel the state agency to comply with this chapter.

20 ARTICLE 2. RENAMING OF TERMS IN TEXAS CODES AND STATUTES

21 SECTION 2.01. Subchapter A, Chapter 311, Government Code,
22 is amended by adding Section 311.007 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 311.007. REFERENCES TO GULF OF MEXICO. (a) A
24 reference in law to the Gulf of Mexico is a reference to the Gulf of
25 America.

26 (b) For purposes of this section, "Gulf of America" means
27 the body of water formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico and renamed

1 the "Gulf of America" by federal law or executive order.

2 SECTION 2.02. Subchapter B, Chapter 312, Government Code,
3 is amended by adding Section 312.017 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 312.017. REFERENCES TO GULF OF MEXICO. (a) A
5 reference in law to the Gulf of Mexico is a reference to the Gulf of
6 America.

7 (b) For purposes of this section, "Gulf of America" means
8 the body of water formerly known as the Gulf of Mexico and renamed
9 the "Gulf of America" by federal law or executive order.

10 SECTION 2.03. The Texas Legislative Council shall prepare
11 for consideration by the 90th Legislature a nonsubstantive revision
12 of the Texas codes and revised statutes changing each reference to
13 the "Gulf of Mexico" to the "Gulf of America."

14 ARTICLE 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 SECTION 3.01. This Act takes effect immediately if it
16 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
17 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
18 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
19 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.