

By: Perry, et al.
(King, Meyer, Moody, Wilson, Darby, et al.)

S.B. No. 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery;
requiring a license; authorizing fees.

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

SECTION 1. Article 49.10, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
amended by adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(e-1) This subsection expires April 1, 2027.
Notwithstanding Subsections (c) and (e) and Subchapter F, Chapter
264, Family Code, for each body that is the subject of an inquest by
a justice of the peace, the justice may certify an autopsy is
unnecessary if:

(1) the justice determines by clear and convincing
evidence that:

(A) the cause of death was the result of injuries
sustained as a result of a natural disaster; and

(B) the death was not caused by an unlawful act or
omission; and

(2) a person described by Article 49.33(a) is not
otherwise seeking an autopsy, regardless of the person's listed
priority for purposes of that subsection.

SECTION 2. Article 49A.063, Code of Criminal Procedure, as
added by H.B. 1610, Acts of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session,
2025, and effective April 1, 2027, is amended by adding Subsection
(c-1) to read as follows:

1 (c-1) Notwithstanding Subsections (b) and (c) and
2 Subchapter F, Chapter 264, Family Code, for each body that is the
3 subject of an inquest by a justice of the peace, the justice may
4 certify an autopsy is unnecessary if:

5 (1) the justice determines by clear and convincing
6 evidence that:

7 (A) the cause of death was the result of injuries
8 sustained as a result of a natural disaster; and

9 (B) the death was not caused by an unlawful act or
10 omission; and

11 (2) a person described by Article 49A.203(a) is not
12 otherwise seeking an autopsy, regardless of the person's listed
13 priority for purposes of that subsection.

14 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 27, Government Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 27.0055 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 27.0055. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN
17 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE. (a) This section applies only to a justice
18 of the peace of a county not served by a medical examiner.

19 (b) The Department of State Health Services, in
20 collaboration with the Texas Division of Emergency Management,
21 shall develop for justices of the peace a training program on
22 managing mass fatality events. The training program must include:

23 (1) decision-making protocols for ordering an
24 autopsy;

25 (2) standards for identifying and documenting bodies;
26 and

27 (3) best practices on:

1 (A) collecting and reporting data regarding
2 missing persons;

3 (B) coordinating efforts with multiple
4 governmental agencies during mass fatality events; and

5 (C) providing real-time status updates and
6 notifications for close relatives of a victim of a mass fatality.

7 (c) For purposes of removal under Chapter 87, Local
8 Government Code, "incompetency" in the case of a justice of the
9 peace includes the failure of the justice to successfully complete
10 on or before the first anniversary of the date the justice is first
11 elected the training program developed under this section.

12 (d) The Department of State Health Services may:

13 (1) consult with the Justices of the Peace and
14 Constables Association of Texas in developing the training program
15 required under Subsection (b); and

16 (2) by agreement authorize the Texas Justice Court
17 Training Center to administer the training program.

18 SECTION 4. Section 411.1236, Government Code, is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 Sec. 411.1236. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD
21 INFORMATION: TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION. (a) The Texas
22 Commission on Fire Protection is entitled to obtain as provided by
23 Subsection (a-1) [from the department] criminal history record
24 information [maintained by the department] that relates to a person
25 who is:

26 (1) an applicant for or holder of a license issued
27 under Subchapter M, Chapter 418, or Chapter 419; or

