

EDUCATION CODE

TITLE 3. HIGHER EDUCATION

SUBTITLE H. RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

CHAPTER 155. SEVERE STORM RESEARCH AND PLANNING CENTER

Sec. 155.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Center" means the severe storm research and planning center.

(2) "Commission" means the regional planning commission, council of governments, or similar regional planning agency created under Chapter 391, Local Government Code, whose membership includes the most populous county that borders on the Gulf of Mexico or on a bay or inlet of the Gulf of Mexico.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 676 (H.B. 1493), Sec. 1, eff. June 15, 2007.

Sec. 155.002. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE. The commission shall create a severe storm research and planning center to facilitate research and develop plans, programs, and technology associated with the impact of and response to hurricanes and other severe storms in the Gulf Coast Region and adjacent areas, including:

(1) the development of real-time storm surge forecasting ability for hurricanes and other severe storms;

(2) the development of radar-based rainfall and flood warning systems for urban and coastal areas;

(3) the development of public education programs relating to compliance with government-initiated evacuation orders;

(4) the assessment of infrastructure risks; and

(5) the development of evacuation plans.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 676 (H.B. 1493), Sec. 1, eff. June 15, 2007.

Sec. 155.003. ADMINISTRATION. (a) The commission shall administer the center.

(b) The commission shall appoint an advisory committee to advise the commission regarding the development of priorities,

guidelines, and procedures for the implementation of this chapter. The advisory committee must include representatives of:

- (1) Rice University;
- (2) the University of Houston;
- (3) The University of Texas at Austin;
- (4) Texas A&M University;
- (5) Texas A&M University at Galveston;
- (6) Texas Southern University;
- (7) The University of Texas at Brownsville;
- (8) regional planning commissions, councils of governments, or similar regional planning agencies created under Chapter 391, Local Government Code, whose membership includes a municipality or county located in the Gulf Coast Region;
- (9) engineering and construction firms associated with public works contracts; and
- (10) the medical profession in a major urban area located in the Gulf Coast Region.

(c) The commission and advisory committee may cooperate, coordinate, and share information with a governmental entity or postsecondary educational institution in another state that borders the Gulf of Mexico.

(d) The commission, in consultation with the advisory committee, shall adopt guidelines and procedures for the administration of this chapter.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 676 (H.B. 1493), Sec. 1, eff. June 15, 2007.

Sec. 155.004. CONTRACT. To the extent funding is available and for the purpose of operating, managing, and providing services or facilities for the center, the commission shall contract with a private postsecondary educational institution that:

- (1) is a member of the Association of American Universities;
- (2) has an enrollment of at least 3,000 students; and
- (3) is located in a municipality in the Gulf Coast Region with a population of 1.8 million or more.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 676 (H.B. 1493), Sec. 1,

eff. June 15, 2007.

Sec. 155.005. FUNDING. (a) The commission may receive state-appropriated funds for the purpose of supporting the activities of the center.

(b) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations for purposes of this chapter.

Added by Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 676 (H.B. [1493](#)), Sec. 1, eff. June 15, 2007.