



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

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Texas Senate Passes Flood Response and Prevention Bills Following Central Texas Flooding

Austin, Texas – In the wake of the devastating July 4th floods in Central Texas, Senator César J. Blanco has helped pass a package of bills aimed at improving disaster preparedness, accelerating recovery efforts, and protecting communities from future flooding events. The bills stem from the work of the Senate Select Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Flooding, on which Senator Blanco serves, and were shaped by hearings in Austin and Kerrville. Senator Blanco co-authored the following bills:

- **SB 1:** Provides essential funding to improve flood mitigation and recovery statewide. It also strengthens disaster response by requiring training for local officials, enhancing communication between state and local agencies, and ensuring coordinated efforts to protect lives and property during severe weather.
- **SB 2:** Requires the Texas Water Development Board to identify high-risk flood areas and work with local governments to install, test, and maintain outdoor warning sirens. This also creates a grant program to help communities cover costs.
- **SB13:** Allows local governments to offer credits against water and wastewater impact fees for developments that include water conservation or reuse systems, helping reduce strain on local resources during disasters.
- **SB 43:** Exempts certain small dams or reservoirs—used exclusively for erosion, floodwater, and sediment control—from lengthy permit requirements, enabling quicker construction and deployment of flood-prevention measures.

Senator Blanco successfully introduced an amendment that broadens training requirements for local officials tasked with emergency management responsibilities. This amendment strengthens community preparedness by enhancing the capacity of local leaders to act swiftly, helping to prevent communication breakdowns and reduce uncertainty during emergencies.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

“The families and communities in Kerrville and surrounding areas have suffered a heartbreaking tragedy, and are still healing. By passing these bills today, we are taking a meaningful step to help families heal and recover. We owe it to those we lost to make sure this never happens again.”

For further information, please contact Taylor Sanchez at Taylor.Sanchez@senate.texas.gov.