

**HB3029 by Paul:** Relating to the creation of the Gulf Coast Protection District; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose fees; providing authority to impose a tax; granting the power of eminent domain.

**Background:**

- HB3029 will create an entity, the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD), to manage the projects identified in the Coastal Texas and Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay studies. These studies, led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in partnership with the Texas General Land Office, offer solutions for the increasing frequency and intensity of storm surge flooding on the Texas Gulf Coast.
- This bill builds on SB 2212 from last session which allowed the three existing drainage districts in the Sabine to Galveston study to become local partner on these projects.
- Currently, there is no entity in Texas that has the authority to sign a project partnership agreement (PPA) for the projects in the Coastal Texas Study. In order to sign a PPA with the USACE (becoming the local partner) an entity must have the following: the ability to tax, eminent domain, and authority to sign a PPA. A local partner is required in order for the state to receive federal funding for these improvements.
- This bill meets the USACE requirements but more importantly, makes the state eligible for up to \$30B federal dollars
- Fiscal note: None anticipated

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