

# CITY OF STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS ORDER DECLARING LOCAL STATE OF DISASTER DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID- 19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe illness and cause further complications including death; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 virus mainly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump declared a State of National Emergency for the United States of America on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of the State of Texas issued a proclamation certifying that COVID-19 poses an imminent threat of disaster in the state and declaring a state of disaster for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the City Council of the City of Stephenville issued a Declaration of Local State Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency and the City of Stephenville is taking extraordinary measures to prevent the spread of this potentially devastating disease in our community; and

WHEREAS, said state of disaster requires that certain emergency protective measures be taken pursuant to the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 relating to Emergency Management and Public Health, pursuant to Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** by the City Council of the City of Stephenville, Texas that the April 1, 2020 Declaration of Public Health Emergency is hereby amended as follows:

#### **SECTION 1.**

- 1. A State of Disaster and Public Health Emergency is hereby declared for the City of Stephenville, pursuant to §418.108(a) of the Texas Government Code.
- 2. This Declaration of a local state of disaster and public health emergency shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed promptly with the City Secretary, pursuant to §418.108(c) of the Texas Government Code.
- 3. The City's Emergency Operations Plan is activated and implemented, pursuant to §418.108(d) of the Texas Government Code.
- 4. The City Council of the City of Stephenville authorizes the city manager to promulgate such regulations as he deems necessary to protect life and property and preserve critical resources while a state of disaster is in effect.

- 5. This Declaration authorizes the City to temporarily acquire, by lease or other means, sites required for temporary housing units or emergency shelters for evacuees, subject to compensation requirements, pursuant to §418.020(c) of the Texas Government Code.
- 6. This Declaration authorizes the City to take any actions necessary to promote health and suppress disease, including quarantine, examining and regulating hospitals, regulating ingress and egress from the City, and fining those who do not comply with the City's rules, pursuant to §122.006 of the Health and Safety Code.
- 7. This declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

#### **SECTION 2.**

- 1. The City of Stephenville hereby adopts Executive Orders GA-15 and GA-16 issued by Texas Governor Gregg Abbott on April 17, 2020 as the controlling documents for restrictions and guidelines in Stephenville, Erath County, Texas, for the duration of this order, with the exception of the following sections which detail restrictions specifically for Stephenville, Texas. These orders will remain as the controlling documents unless they are modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Governor of the State of Texas. If such action should occur then the modified, amended, or superseding document(s) will become the controlling documents for restrictions and guidelines in Stephenville, Erath County, Texas without need for action by the City Council of the City of Stephenville to amend this order. Executive Orders GA-15 and GA-16 are attached hereto.
- 2. This Declaration orders all businesses operating within the city of Stephenville, Texas to take extreme care and all actions necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Extreme care and action include, but is not limited to, the following practices:
  - a. Monitoring the body temperature of all employees;
  - b. Prior to opening for business and throughout the day disinfecting all surfaces;
  - c. Encouraging all employees to wash their hands on an hourly basis;
  - d. Mandate all employees and customers abide by the social distancing guidelines attached;
  - e. Limit travel of employees outside the city limits of the City of Stephenville, Texas;
  - f. At Convenience Stores where no automatic door is present, at least one door allowing entry for customers shall remain permanently open during business hours;
  - g. All businesses must provide hand sanitizing stations at least one entrance; and
  - h. Allow employees whose job functions permit them to work within the confines of their own home to do such.

Businesses and employers are encouraged to implement any and all measures necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and are ordered to post all measures on the door of entrance to their businesses.

3. Golf Pro Shops will be closed. Golfers will check in outside and staff will practice social distancing similar to grocery stores and markets to assist golfers. Flag sticks may be replaced on greens, but must not be removed by golfers for any reason during the course of play. Bunker rakes will be removed from the bunkers. Clubs and Golf Course will only allow one rider per cart unless passengers are members of the same household, and walking is an option if no carts are available. Carts will be sanitized after each use. All golfers will remain six feet apart at all times, no exceptions. Distancing requirements will be monitored by a Golf Professional to ensure compliance. Driving ranges and practice facilities will be closed. Golfers are not permitted to congregate at any time. Course lavatory facilities shall be sanitized every thirty minutes by course

staff. Both golfers and course staff are subject to the penalties set forth herein to enforce this Order.

#### SECTION 3.

Childcare facilities may continue to operate under the following guidelines:

- Child's temperature must be checked upon entrance and children with a fever will not be allowed
  in. Temperature will be taken throughout the day in at least 90 minute intervals and children will
  be sent home if fever exists.
- 2. Childcare must be carried out in groups of 10 or fewer each day.
- 3. No interchanging of groups of children.
- 4. If more than one group is at a facility, each group must be in a separate room (no mixing of groups).
- 5. Each provider must stay with only one group and not change.

#### **SECTION 4.**

- 1. All public, private, and commercial laboratories operating within the City of Stephenville and performing COVID-19 testing shall report by 5:00 p.m. each day for the prior 24-hour period (1) the number of COVID-19 tests performed and (2) the number of positive COVID-19 tests to Jimmy Chew, Director of Emergency Management for the City of Stephenville if the specimen is collected, or the test is performed, in the City of Stephenville.
- Such laboratories shall not provide names or other individually identifiable health information
  that could be used to identify an individual patient. This information will be used solely for public
  health purposes to monitor the testing conducted in the City and mitigate and contain the spread
  of COVID-19.

#### **SECTION 5.**

If someone in a household has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), the household is ordered to isolate at home. Members of the household cannot go to work, school, or any other community function outside the home. Any person who is sick, experiencing common COVID-19 symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath are hereby ordered to stay home and follow Center for Disease Control Guidelines on how to discontinue home isolation.

#### **SECTION 6.**

In order to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 virus to the citizens of Stephenville, the City of Stephenville is implementing the following closures.

- Airport Terminal is to remain open, however no group meetings will be held or scheduled.
- 2. City Hall Front doors will be locked and the public will be admitted to the building by appointment only. Staff will monitor telephones and email during business hours. Employees who do not have an office in City Hall will be able to make appointments by telephone or by email.
- 3. **Library** Closed to the public and all programs cancelled. Staff will monitor telephones and email during business hours. Returns will be accepted through the outside receptacles.

- 4. **Municipal Service Center** Front doors will be locked and the public will be admitted to the building by appointment only. Staff will monitor telephones and email during business hours.
- 5. Park Facilities Playgrounds, sport courts and fields, public swimming areas, pavilions and the Recreation Hall are closed to the public. Public trails, open areas, skate park, disc golf course, and RV camping are open to the public. Organized activities larger than 10 people not of the same household are prohibited. Individuals not of the same household must, at all times and as reasonably possible, maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person when using city park facilities.

#### 6. **Public Safety**

- i. Fire Station No. 2 Front doors will be locked. Those seeking assistance may contact fire personnel by using the intercom in the front of the building or by calling 254-918-1273 from their home or cell phone.
- ii. Police Department Front doors will be locked. Those seeking assistance may contact dispatch by picking up the phone in the front of the building or by calling 254-918-1273 from their home or cell phone.
- 7. **Recreation Center** Closed to the public and all programs cancelled.
- 8. Senior Citizens Center Closed to the public; all programs and activities will be cancelled.
- 9. Meetings All Public Meetings will comply with the Texas Open Meetings Act as amended by Executive Order of the Governor of the State of Texas. All Public Meetings will be conducted via teleconference unless otherwise posted. All Regular Business Meetings of the Stephenville City Council held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month are suspended for the duration of this order or unless called into session by the Mayor of Stephenville.

#### SECTION 7.

The City of Stephenville will not terminate utility services for the duration of this declaration. The City of Stephenville will designate funds in the amount of \$250,000 to help stimulate all restaurants and personal service businesses within the city of Stephenville that have been affected by COVID-19.

### **SECTION 8.**

This Order shall become effective immediately, and shall remain in effect until it is either rescinded, superseded, or amended pursuant to applicable law or Governor's Order.

#### **SECTION 9.**

The City of Stephenville must promptly provide copies of this Order by posting on the city's website. In addition, the owner, manager, or operator of any facility that is likely to be impacted by this Order is strongly encouraged to post a copy of this Order onsite and to provide a copy to any member of the public asking for a copy.

#### **SECTION 10.**

If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order or any application of it to any person, structure, gathering, or circumstance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, then such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Order.

#### **SECTION 11.**

A person who knowingly or intentionally violates this declaration commits an offense, punishable by a fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$1,000.00 or confinement in jail for a term that does not exceed 180 days. Upon a second violation of this declaration, a business who holds a Certificate of Occupancy from the City of Stephenville may have that Certificate of Occupancy revoked.

#### SECTION 12.

- 1. Any ordinance, order, or regulation that would prevent temporary sheltering and housing by the City of Stephenville, Texas, or the Federal Government in response to the declared disaster are suspended or modified as necessary to make these regulations effective.
- 2. Any ordinance or regulation imposing a time requirement for approving or denying an application or for appealing a County Court or Administrative decision is tolled.
- 3. Any ordinances or regulations that conflict with these regulations are suspended or modified as necessary to make these regulations effective.
- 4. Suspension or modification of the ordinances and regulations shall remain in effect until these regulations are terminated or until the state of disaster is terminated, whichever is sooner.

#### **SECTION 13.**

ATTEST:

This declaration hereby authorizes the use of all lawfully available enforcement tools.

ORDERED THIS the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2020.

Declaration of Public Health Emergency April 22, 2020

# Kxecutive Order

# BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department Austin, Texas April 17, 2020

### EXECUTIVE ORDER GA 15

Relating to hospital capacity during the COVID-19 disaster.

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2020, I issued a proclamation renewing the disaster declaration for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued numerous executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to COVID-19, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, a shortage of hospital capacity or personal protective equipment would hinder efforts to cope with the COVID-19 disaster; and

WHEREAS, hospital capacity and personal protective equipment were being depleted by surgeries and procedures that were not medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition or to preserve the life of a patient, contrary to recommendations from the President's Coronavirus Task Force, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

WHEREAS, various hospital licensing requirements would stand in the way of implementing increased occupancy in the event of surge needs for hospital capacity due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-09 on March 22, 2020, in an effort to avoid a shortage of hospital capacity or personal protective equipment, and it is subject to expiration at 11:59 p.m. on April 21, 2020, absent further action by the governor; and

WHEREAS, the "governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

11:40 Aug O'CLOCK

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the "governor may issue executive orders ... hav[ing] the force and effect of law;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.016(a), the "governor may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of a state agency if strict compliance with the provisions, orders, or rules would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.173, failure to comply with any executive order issued during the COVID-19 disaster is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis beginning at 11:59 p.m. on April 21, 2020, and continuing until 11:59 p.m. on May 8, 2020:

All licensed health care professionals and all licensed health care facilities shall postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not medically necessary to diagnose or correct a serious medical condition of, or to preserve the life of, a patient who without timely performance of the surgery or procedure would be at risk for serious adverse medical consequences or death, as determined by the patient's physician; provided, however, that this prohibition shall not apply to either of the following:

- any procedure that, if performed in accordance with the commonly accepted standard of clinical practice, would not deplete the hospital capacity or the personal protective equipment needed to cope with the COVID-19 disaster; or
- any surgery or procedure performed in a licensed health care facility that has certified in writing to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission both:

   (1) that it will reserve at least 25% of its hospital capacity for treatment of COVID-19 patients, accounting for the range of clinical severity of COVID-19 patients; and (2) that it will not request any personal protective equipment from any public source, whether federal, state, or local, for the duration of the COVID-19 disaster.

I hereby continue the suspension of the following provisions to the extent necessary to implement increased occupancy in the event of surge needs for hospital capacity due to COVID-19:

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25 TAC Sec. 133.162(d)(4)(A)(iii)(I);
25 TAC Sec. 133.163(f)(1)(A)(i)(II)–(III);
25 TAC Sec. 133.163(f)(1)(B)(i)(III)–(IV);
25 TAC Sec. 133.163(m)(1)(B)(ii);
25 TAC Sec. 133.163(t)(1)(B)(iii)–(iv);
25 TAC Sec. 133.163(t)(1)(C);
25 TAC Sec. 133.163(t)(5)(B)–(C); and
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Any other pertinent regulations or statutes, upon written approval of the Office of the Governor.

This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on May 8, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.



Given under my hand this the 17th day of April, 2020.

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

RUTH R. HUGHS Secretary of State

# Kxecutive Order

### BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department Austin, Texas April 17, 2020

## EXECUTIVE ORDER GA 16

Relating to the safe, strategic reopening of select services as the first step to Open Texas in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2020, I issued a proclamation renewing the disaster declaration for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined that COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, I have issued numerous executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to COVID-19, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, I issued Executive Order GA-08 on March 19, 2020, mandating certain obligations for Texans in accordance with the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, as promulgated by President Donald J. Trump and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on March 16, 2020, which called upon Americans to take actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 for 15 days; and

WHEREAS, shortly before Executive Order GA-08 expired, I issued Executive Order GA-14 on March 31, 2020, based on the President's announcement that the restrictive social-distancing Guidelines should extend through April 30, 2020, in light of advice from Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, and also based on guidance by DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Birx that the spread of COVID-19 can be reduced by minimizing social gatherings; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-14 superseded Executive Order GA-08 and expanded the social-distancing restrictions and other obligations for Texans that are aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19, including by limiting social gatherings and in-person contact with people (other than those in the same household) to providing or obtaining "essential services," and by expressly adopting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's March 28, 2020 Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0, which provides a list of critical-infrastructure sectors, workers, and functions that should continue as "essential services" during the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order GA-14 therefore restricts non-essential services during the COVID-19 disaster; and

WHEREAS, although many lives have been saved because of social-distancing restrictions like those required by Executive Order GA-14, more than 400 Texans have lost their lives because of COVID-19, and the disease still presents a serious threat across Texas that could persist in certain areas; and

WHEREAS, apart from the threats to health and safety, COVID-19 has also wrought havoc on the many Texas businesses and workers affected by social-distancing restrictions that were necessary to protect human life; and

WHEREAS, over one million unemployment claims have been filed during the COVID-19 disaster by conscientious Texans who want to get back to work as soon as it is safe to do so; and

WHEREAS, Texas must protect lives while restoring livelihoods, both of which can be achieved with the expert advice of medical professionals and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, today I am also issuing Executive Order GA-17, creating the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas to study and make recommendations on safely and strategically restarting and revitalizing all aspects of the Lone Star State—work, school, entertainment, and culture; and

WHEREAS, the "governor is responsible for meeting ... the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the "governor may issue executive orders ... hav[ing] the force and effect of law;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.016(a), the "governor may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business ... if strict compliance with the provisions ... would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with a disaster;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.017(a), the "governor may use all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.018(c), the "governor may control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area and the movement of persons and the occupancy of premises in the area;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.173, failure to comply with any executive order issued during the COVID-19 disaster is an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 180 days, or both fine and confinement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective immediately, and continuing through April

30, 2020, subject to extension based on the status of COVID-19 in Texas and the recommendations of the CDC and the White House Coronavirus Task Force:

In accordance with guidance from DSHS Commissioner Dr. Hellerstedt, and to achieve the goals established by the President to reduce the spread of COVID-19, every person in Texas shall, except where necessary to provide or obtain essential services or reopened services, minimize social gatherings and minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.

"Essential services" shall consist of everything listed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, Version 2.0 or any subsequent version, plus religious services conducted in churches, congregations, and houses of worship. Other essential services may be added to this list with the approval of the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). TDEM shall maintain an online list of essential services, as specified in this executive order and any approved additions. Requests for additions should be directed to TDEM at <a href="mailto:EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov">EssentialServices@tdem.texas.gov</a> or by visiting <a href="https://www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices">www.tdem.texas.gov/essentialservices</a>.

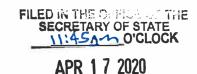
"Reopened services" shall consist of:

- Starting at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020, retail services that are not
  "essential services," but that may be provided through pickup, delivery by mail,
  or delivery to the customer's doorstep in strict compliance with the terms
  required by DSHS. The DSHS requirements may be found at
  www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.
- Such additional services as may be enumerated by future executive orders or proclamations by the governor.

In providing or obtaining essential services or reopened services, people and businesses should follow the Guidelines from the President and the CDC by practicing good hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and sanitation, implementing social distancing, and working from home if possible. In particular, all such services should be provided through remote telework from home unless they cannot be provided through remote telework. Religious services should be conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for Houses of Worship During the COVID-19 Crisis, as promulgated by the attorney general and governor.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts, or visiting gyms, massage establishments, tattoo studios, piercing studios, or cosmetology salons; provided, however, that the use of drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food and drinks is allowed and highly encouraged throughout the limited duration of this executive order.

This executive order does not prohibit people from accessing essential or reopened services or engaging in essential daily activities, such as going to the grocery store or gas station, providing or obtaining other essential or reopened services, visiting parks, hunting or fishing, or engaging in physical activity like jogging or bicycling, so long as the necessary precautions are maintained to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to minimize in-person contact with people who are not in the same household.



In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, people shall not visit nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance as determined through guidance from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Nursing homes, state supported living centers, assisted living facilities, and long-term care facilities should follow infection control policies and practices set forth by the HHSC, including minimizing the movement of staff between facilities whenever possible.

In accordance with the Guidelines from the President and the CDC, schools shall remain temporarily closed to in-person classroom attendance by students and shall not recommence before the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Public education teachers and staff are encouraged to continue to work remotely from home if possible, but may return to schools to conduct remote video instruction, as well as perform administrative duties, under the strict terms required by the Texas Education Agency. Private schools and institutions of higher education should establish similar terms to allow teachers and staff to return to schools to conduct remote video instruction and perform administrative duties when it is not possible to do so remotely from home.

This executive order shall supersede any conflicting order issued by local officials in response to the COVID-19 disaster, but only to the extent that such a local order restricts essential services or reopened services allowed by this executive order or allows gatherings prohibited by this executive order. I hereby suspend Sections 418.1015(b) and 418.108 of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 81, Subchapter E of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and any other relevant statutes, to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not impose restrictions inconsistent with this executive order, provided that local officials may enforce this executive order as well as local restrictions that are consistent with this executive order.

This executive order supersedes Executive Order GA-14, but does not supersede Executive Orders GA-09, GA-10, GA-11, GA-12, GA-13, or GA-15. This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

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Given under my hand this the 17th day of April, 2020.

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GREG ABBOTT

Governor

ATTESTED BY:

RUTH R. HUGHS Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE 11:45 AM O'CLOCK

APR 17 2020