

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 4843

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study conducted by the Texas Division of Emergency Management regarding the process for obtaining disaster-related financial assistance.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "division" means the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

SECTION 2. STUDY. (a) The division, with the assistance of the Emergency Management Council, shall conduct a study on the process for applying for, approving, and awarding financial assistance during the disaster recovery process.

(b) In conducting the study, the division shall:

(1) compile data regarding the amount of time and effort required for local governments, individuals, and businesses to apply for and ultimately receive disaster-related financial assistance;

(2) identify current laws and rules governing the provision of disaster-related financial assistance; and

(3) identify opportunities to streamline, simplify, and expedite the process for local governments, individuals, and businesses to apply for and receive disaster-related financial assistance.

SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2026, the division shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the

1 speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the
2 legislature a written report that includes:

3 (1) a summary of the information compiled in the
4 study, including an analysis of the efficiency and effectiveness of
5 the disaster-related financial assistance system; and

6 (2) recommendations from the division and the
7 Emergency Management Council, including:

8 (A) recommendations regarding the manner by
9 which disaster-related financial assistance can be provided more
10 efficiently, simply, and quickly; and

11 (B) recommendations for legislative or other
12 action.

13 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires September 1,
14 2027.

15 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
16 1, 2025.