

By: Strama

H.B. No. 3029

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility of nonborder areas for certain state assistance.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (i), Section 15.407, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(i) If, after submission of an application under this section, a county fails to meet ~~[has an increase in average per capita income or a decrease in unemployment rate average so that the county no longer meets]~~ the definition of an affected county in Section 16.341, the political subdivision that submits the application continues to be eligible for the funds under this section, and the board shall process the application for facility engineering and, if the application is approved, shall provide funds for the facility engineering plan to the political subdivision.

SECTION 2. Subdivision (1), Section 16.341, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Affected county" means a county that:

(A) ~~[that]~~ has a per capita income that averaged 25 percent below the state average for the most recent three consecutive years for which statistics are available and an unemployment rate that averaged 25 percent above the state average for the most recent three consecutive years for which statistics

1 are available; ~~[or]~~

2 (B) ~~[that]~~ is adjacent to an international  
3 border; or

4 (C) is otherwise eligible for financial  
5 assistance under Subchapter K, Chapter 17.

6 SECTION 3. Section 17.923, Water Code, is amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 Sec. 17.923. COUNTY ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

9 (a) To be eligible for financial assistance under this subchapter,  
10 a county:

11 (1) must have a per capita income that averaged 25  
12 percent below the state average for the most recent three  
13 consecutive years for which statistics are available and an  
14 unemployment rate that averaged 25 percent above the state average  
15 for the most recent three consecutive years for which statistics  
16 are available; or

17 (2) must be located adjacent to an international  
18 border.

19 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), if the board adopts a  
20 resolution stating that the proceeds of the bonds authorized by  
21 Section 49-d-7(b), Article III, Texas Constitution, have been fully  
22 committed, any county with an economically distressed area is  
23 eligible for financial assistance under this subchapter beginning  
24 on the date the resolution is adopted.

25 \_\_\_\_SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it  
26 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each  
27 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.

H.B. No. 3029

1 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate  
2 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.