

By: McCall

H.B. No. 3698

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to temporary housing and emergency shelters provided by a political subdivision for disaster victims.

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

SECTION 1. Section 418.004, Government Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (6-a) to read as follows:

(6-a) "Public facility" has the meaning assigned by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Section 5121 et seq.).

SECTION 2. Section 418.020, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 418.020. TEMPORARY HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SHELTER. (a) The governor may enter into purchase, lease, or other arrangements with an agency of the United States for temporary housing units to be occupied by disaster victims and may make units available to any political subdivision.

(b) The governor may assist a political subdivision that is the locus of temporary housing or emergency shelters for disaster victims to acquire sites necessary for temporary housing or emergency shelters and to do all things required to prepare the sites to receive and use temporary housing units or emergency shelters by:

(1) advancing or lending funds available to the governor from any appropriation made by the legislature or from any

1 other source;

2 (2) allocating funds made available by a public or  
3 private agency; or

4 (3) becoming a copartner with the political  
5 subdivision for the execution and performance of any temporary  
6 housing or emergency shelter project for disaster victims.

7 (c) Under regulations prescribed by the governor, the  
8 governor may temporarily suspend or modify for a period of not more  
9 than 60 days any public health, safety, zoning, intrastate  
10 transportation, or other law or regulation if by proclamation the  
11 governor considers the suspension or modification essential to  
12 provide temporary housing or emergency shelter for disaster  
13 victims.

14 (d) Any political subdivision may temporarily or  
15 permanently acquire by lease, purchase, or other means sites  
16 required for installation of temporary housing units or emergency  
17 shelters for disaster victims and may enter into arrangements  
18 necessary to prepare or equip the sites to use the housing units or  
19 shelters, including arrangements for the purchase of temporary  
20 housing units and the payment of transportation charges.

21 (e) A political subdivision that is the locus of temporary  
22 housing or emergency shelters for persons moved or evacuated by  
23 recommendation or order of the governor shall be assisted by any  
24 resource available to the state to ensure the political subdivision  
25 receives an advance or reimbursement:

26 (1) of all expenses, including lost revenue, incurred  
27 by the political subdivision associated with the use of public

1 facilities for temporary housing or emergency shelters; and  
2 (2) of the amounts paid for salaries and benefits of  
3 permanently employed, straight-time and regular-time personnel of  
4 the political subdivision who perform duties associated with the  
5 movement or evacuation of persons into, out of, or through the  
6 political subdivision.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.