

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 1566  
By: Shapleigh  
Natural Resources  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

During the dramatic floods that impacted El Paso in August 2006, the city of Juarez was hit equally hard, prompting Mayor Hector Lardizabal to declare a state of emergency. Flood waters in Juarez threatened to pour into El Paso had the water continued to rise. By allowing state agencies access to geographic information system data of areas near the Texas/Mexico border, Texas can better prepare for disasters such as the 2006 floods.

S.B. 1566 requires the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board, under the guidance of the Texas Geographic Information Council (TGIC), to acquire and make available to state agencies geographic information system data for areas of the United States and Mexico that are within 150 miles of the Texas border. The bill also requires TGIC to issue a report containing recommendations on how to best use the information.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the Committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 16.021(e), Water Code, as follows:

(e) Requires the executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board, under the guidance of the Texas Geographic Information Council (TGIC) to acquire and make available to state agencies information system data for areas of the United States and Mexico that are within 150 miles of the Texas border.

SECTION 2. Requires TGIC, not later than January 1, 2010, to issue a report containing recommendations on how the state and local governmental entities may best use of geographic information system data to respond to emergencies, including data provided by federal, state, and local governmental entities and private entities.

SECTION 3. Provides the effective date of this Act.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.