

By: Turner of Harris

H.B. No. 2827

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of the emergency housing and disaster
3 recovery division within the Texas Department of Housing and
4 Community Affairs.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 2306.0521, Government Code, is amended
7 by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

8 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the department shall
9 establish and maintain an emergency housing and disaster recovery
10 division. The division shall:

11 (1) develop a program to provide for the rapid
12 deployment of temporary housing for homeowners affected by natural
13 disasters;

14 (2) develop a program to quickly restore or replace
15 permanent housing for homeowners affected by natural disasters;

16 (3) develop a program to quickly provide additional
17 rental housing to areas affected by natural disasters;

18 (4) provide funding to nonprofit agencies that provide
19 to homeowners affected by natural disasters counseling on
20 refinancing options and financial assistance available through
21 state and federal programs; and

22 (5) collaborate with the division of emergency
23 management established under Chapter 418 and the Federal Emergency
24 Management Agency to secure reimbursement for housing needs in

1 areas affected by natural disasters.

2 SECTION 2. Section 2306.056, Government Code, is amended by
3 adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

4 (c) If federal or state money, other than money appropriated
5 to the department under a current services budget for the state
6 fiscal biennium prepared for the state budgetary process is
7 allocated to the department to address the results of a natural
8 disaster, the board may appoint a committee composed of residents
9 of the affected area. The committee shall serve until 90 percent of
10 the money allocated to the department to address the results of the
11 natural disaster has been spent. The committee shall advise the
12 department and the emergency housing and disaster recovery division
13 with regards to resource allocation.

14 (d) The department shall develop and implement policies
15 that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear
16 periodically before a committee created under Subsection (c) and to
17 speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of the emergency housing
18 and disaster recovery division.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.