

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 2292

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a natural disaster housing reconstruction initiative.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to encourage the development of a model reconstruction plan for future reconstruction efforts to increase the effective and efficient delivery of natural disaster recovery services by state agencies. This Act is not meant to affect ongoing reconstruction efforts.

SECTION 2. Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. NATURAL DISASTER HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE

Sec. 418.301. NATURAL DISASTER HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The natural disaster housing reconstruction advisory committee is composed of:

(1) the executive director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs;

(2) the executive director of the Office of Rural Community Affairs;

(3) the director of the division; and

(4) one representative of each of the following appointed by the natural disaster housing reconstruction coordinator:

(A) the College of Engineering of Texas Tech

1 University;  
2                   (B) the community and regional planning program  
3 of The University of Texas at Austin;  
4                   (C) the School of Architecture of Rice  
5 University;  
6                   (D) the School of Social Work of The University  
7 of Texas at Austin;  
8                   (E) the Texas Society of Architects;  
9                   (F) the Austin Community Design and Development  
10 Center;  
11                   (G) the Texas Low Income Housing Information  
12 Service;  
13                   (H) the Texas Association of Builders;  
14                   (I) the Texas Manufactured Housing Association;  
15                   (J) Gulf Coast Interfaith;  
16                   (K) the United States Department of Homeland  
17 Security;  
18                   (L) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;  
19                   (M) the United States Department of Housing and  
20 Urban Development;  
21                   (N) the Community Development Corporation of  
22 Brownsville;  
23                   (O) community development corporations from two  
24 other communities affected by hurricanes; and  
25                   (P) Habitat for Humanity.  
26           (b) The advisory committee shall develop a natural disaster  
27 reconstruction plan. In developing this plan, the advisory

1 committee shall:

2 (1) evaluate existing systems of providing temporary  
3 housing to victims of natural disasters and develop alternative  
4 systems to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness;

5 (2) evaluate existing models for providing permanent  
6 replacement housing to victims of natural disasters;

7 (3) design alternatives to existing models to improve  
8 the sustainability, affordability, desirability, and quality of  
9 housing rebuilt in the event of future natural disasters;

10 (4) evaluate economic circumstances of elderly,  
11 disabled, and low-income victims of natural disasters and develop  
12 models for providing affordable replacement housing;

13 (5) recommend programs for the rapid and efficient  
14 large-scale production of temporary and permanent replacement  
15 housing following a natural disaster; and

16 (6) encourage the participation, coordination, and  
17 involvement of appropriate federal organizations.

18 (c) The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs  
19 shall provide funding for the advisory committee through the  
20 department's research funds.

21 (d) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory committee.

22 Sec. 418.302. NATURAL DISASTER HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION  
23 COORDINATOR. (a) The governor shall appoint an employee of the  
24 office of the governor or the administrative head of a state agency  
25 as the natural disaster housing reconstruction coordinator. The  
26 coordinator serves at the pleasure of the governor.

27 (b) The coordinator shall:

1           (1) call meetings of the advisory committee as  
2 necessary;

3           (2) assist the advisory committee in developing and  
4 implementing the natural disaster reconstruction plan;

5           (3) submit the natural disaster reconstruction plan to  
6 the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of  
7 representatives, and members of the legislature;

8           (4) work with appropriate state agencies to address  
9 any housing-related issues, including liens, identified by the  
10 advisory committee that may assist state agencies in efforts to  
11 reconstruct homes following disasters; and

12           (5) encourage the participation, coordination, and  
13 involvement of appropriate federal organizations.

14           (c) The agency that employs the coordinator shall provide  
15 funding for the coordinator position using money from any source  
16 that may be used to respond to a natural disaster.

17           Sec. 418.303. HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION DEMONSTRATION  
18 PROGRAM. (a) Using the natural disaster reconstruction plan  
19 developed under this subchapter, the coordinator and advisory  
20 committee shall develop and implement a housing reconstruction  
21 demonstration program in three areas previously affected by a  
22 natural disaster. The program must provide for the replacement of  
23 at least 20 houses in each area to test the feasibility of  
24 implementing the plan in the production of replacement housing for  
25 victims of natural disasters.

26           (b) The program shall be implemented using available funds  
27 from the housing trust fund or any other federal or state funds

1 available.

2 Sec. 418.304. ASSISTANCE AND STAFFING. The division, with  
3 the assistance of the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
4 Affairs and the Office of Rural Community Affairs, shall assist the  
5 coordinator and advisory committee as necessary, including by  
6 providing appropriate staff.

7 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than October 1, 2009, the governor  
8 shall appoint the natural disaster housing reconstruction  
9 coordinator under Section 418.302, Government Code, as added by  
10 this Act.

11 (b) The natural disaster housing reconstruction coordinator  
12 shall, not later than 14 days after appointment, call an initial  
13 meeting of the advisory committee under Section 418.301, Government  
14 Code, as added by this Act.

15 (c) Not later than 60 days after appointment of the  
16 coordinator, the advisory committee shall develop a preliminary  
17 natural disaster reconstruction plan under Section 418.301(b),  
18 Government Code, as added by this Act.

19 (d) Not later than December 1, 2009, the advisory committee  
20 shall submit the final natural disaster reconstruction plan.

21 (e) Not later than February 1, 2010, the advisory committee  
22 shall implement the housing reconstruction demonstration program  
23 established under Section 418.303, Government Code, as added by  
24 this Act.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.