

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 973

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to financial assistance administered by the Texas
3 Department of Housing and Community Affairs in certain rural areas.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 2306.004(28-a) and (36), Government
6 Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (28-a) "Rural area" means an area that is located:

8 (A) outside the boundaries of a primary
9 metropolitan statistical area or a metropolitan statistical area;
10 or

11 (B) within the boundaries of a primary
12 metropolitan statistical area or a metropolitan statistical area,
13 if the ~~[statistical]~~ area:

14 (i) has a population of 25,000 or less and
15 does not share a boundary with an urban area; or

16 (ii) is designated by the department as a
17 rural area under Section 2306.0075.

18 (36) "Urban area" means the area that is located
19 within the boundaries of a primary metropolitan statistical area or
20 a metropolitan statistical area other than an area described by
21 Subdivision (28-a)(B) ~~[or eligible for funding as described by~~
22 ~~Subdivision (28-a)(C)]~~.

23 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 2306, Government Code, is
24 amended by adding Section 2306.0075 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 2306.0075. DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN AREAS AS RURAL. (a)

2 This section applies only to an area that:

3 (1) is located within the boundaries of a primary
4 metropolitan statistical area or a metropolitan statistical area;
5 and

6 (2) has a population of 25,000 or less.

7 (b) The department shall designate a statistical area
8 described by Subsection (a) as a rural area under Section
9 2306.004(28-a)(B)(ii) for purposes of receiving financial
10 assistance administered by the department under this chapter if the
11 department receives an ordinance or order:

12 (1) adopted by the governing body of the applicable
13 political subdivision seeking the designation described by this
14 subsection; and

15 (2) stating that the statistical area is a rural area
16 for purposes of receiving the financial assistance.

17 (c) The department shall adopt rules ensuring that
18 financial assistance provided to a designated rural area complies
19 with any applicable federal requirements regarding that
20 assistance.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.