86R8405 JAM-D

By:  Neave H.B. No. 1583

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a government shutdown housing relief loan program; authorizing fees.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter K, Chapter 2306, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2306.2591 to read as follows:

Sec. 2306.2591.  GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN HOUSING RELIEF LOAN PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish and administer a program to provide loans to federal employees who are:

(1)  considered nonessential or otherwise furloughed during a federal government shutdown; or

(2)  working without pay during a federal government shutdown as a result of being considered essential or otherwise excepted from a furlough.

(b)  A loan made under this section:

(1)  may be made only for rent, mortgage, or utility payments;

(2)  must be repaid not later than the 60th day after the date the federal government processes back pay for the loan recipient following the end of a federal government shutdown; and

(3)  may not bear interest.

(c)  The department shall adopt rules necessary to administer the program. Rules adopted under this section:

(1)  must include requirements for documentation necessary for a loan applicant to establish eligibility for participation in the program, including proof of employment and covered expenses; and

(2)  may impose fees for the failure to repay a loan within the period required by Subsection (b)(2).

(d)  The department may use any available revenue, including any available money from the housing trust fund, to provide loans under this section. The department shall solicit and accept gifts and grants for the purposes of this section.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.