

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 27, 2019**

**TO:** Honorable Eddie Lucio, Jr., Chair, Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

**FROM:** John McGeady, Assistant Director    Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director  
 Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE:** **SB289** by Lucio (relating to disaster housing recovery.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for SB289, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$2,865,224) through the biennium ending August 31, 2021.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill. The General Land Office and Texas A&M University are required to implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the General Land Office and Texas A&M University may, but are not required to, implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that purpose.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2020	(\$1,504,151)
2021	(\$1,361,073)
2022	(\$1,361,073)
2023	(\$1,361,073)
2024	(\$1,361,073)

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1	Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2017
2020	(\$1,504,151)	13.0
2021	(\$1,361,073)	13.0
2022	(\$1,361,073)	13.0
2023	(\$1,361,073)	13.0
2024	(\$1,361,073)	13.0

## **Fiscal Analysis**

The bill would amend the Government Code relating to natural disaster housing recovery. The bill would designate the General Land Office (GLO) as the state agency responsible for receiving and administering federal and state funds appropriated for long-term natural disaster recovery. The bill would require GLO to collaborate with the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to secure reimbursement for housing needs in areas affected by natural disasters. Additionally, the bill would require GLO to maintain a staff and administrative support to carry out the duties related to long-term natural disaster recovery. The bill would authorize the Governor to designate an agency other than GLO to be responsible for long-term natural disaster recovery.

The bill would require the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center at Texas A&M University to review and certify local housing recovery plans submitted by units of local government located in coastal counties. The bill would establish criteria for approving the local housing recovery plans and would establish duties and responsibilities regarding plans that would be submitted to GLO and the Governor for approval. The bill would give GLO the ability to limit the number of plans it reviews annually.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

## **Methodology**

GLO currently administers federal funds from the Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). However, these funds are appropriated to states on a disaster by disaster basis and can only be used for affected areas by a specific disaster. Accordingly, this analysis assumes that CDBG-DR funds would not be available to permanently fund and staff the division required by the bill. This analysis assumes that General Revenue funding would be necessary for this purpose.

Based on information provided by GLO, an additional 13.0 FTEs would be needed to establish a new division to handle long-term natural disaster recovery. The following FTEs would be necessary: Director I (1.0 FTEs, salary \$93,406), Manager III (2.0 FTEs, individual salary \$77,862), Program Specialist VI (4.0 FTEs, individual salary \$72,789), Program Specialist VII (4.0 FTEs, individual salary \$83,298), and Administrative Assistant IV (2.0 FTEs, individual salary \$42,511). Salary, benefits, and other costs for the new FTEs would total \$1,439,151 in fiscal year 2020, and \$1,296,073 each subsequent fiscal year. Travel costs of \$5,000 per FTE per year would be an additional \$65,000 each fiscal year.

Based on information provided by the Office of the Governor, the Department of Insurance, the Department of Public Safety, and the Texas A&M University System Administration, the provisions of the bill could be implemented with existing resources.

## **Local Government Impact**

According to the Texas Municipal League and Texas Association of Counties, if a local government entity chooses to develop a local housing recovery plan under the provisions of the bill, there could be costs; however, the fiscal impact is not anticipated to be significant.

**Source Agencies:** 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 405 Department of Public Safety, 454 Department of Insurance, 300

Trusted Programs Within the Office of the Governor, 305 General Land  
Office and Veterans' Land Board

**LBB Staff:** WP, AF, MW, PBO, ESC, JGa