

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 2168  
By: Watson  
Transportation  
4/1/2019  
As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

A small number of Texas counties have suffered repeated disasters in a short period of time, draining local government resources and reducing tax revenue streams.

Statute requires local communities to provide matching funds for right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation for Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) projects. Statute further authorizes TxDOT to offer economically disadvantaged counties a reduced local match requirement.

S.B. 2168 would create an additional set of criteria for counties devastated by federally declared disasters to participate in the economic disadvantaged counties program for a period of time. These criteria are: a county must have been designated an economically disadvantaged county in the past six years and been included in a minimum of five federally declared disasters within that same time frame.

As proposed, S.B. 2168 amends current law relating to relief from local matching funds requirement for certain counties.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 222.053, Transportation Code, by adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2), as follows:

(a-1) Defines "economically disadvantaged county" for purposes of this section.

(a-2) Requires the adjustment to the local matching funds requirement, for a county described by Subsection (a-1), to be equivalent to the highest adjustment rate set in the last year the county was considered to meet the criteria described by Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2019.