

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 294

**DATE:** March 12, 1999

**Version:** First engrossment

**Authors:** Broecker and others

**Subject:** Aid to political subdivisions for certain extraordinary disaster expenses

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### Overview

House File 294 provides for a standing, annual appropriation to the commissioner of public safety to provide disaster relief aid to political subdivisions for extraordinary expenses due to a disaster. The bill requires the commissioner to establish procedures for political subdivisions to apply for the aid and it requires a local match, which may be in kind, of one dollar for every three dollars of state aid.

#### **1 Aid for extraordinary local disaster expenses.**

**Subd. 1. Eligibility.** (a) Permits an eligible political subdivision to apply for state aid needed due to a disaster.

"Political subdivision" is defined to mean a county, town, statutory or home rule charter city, or the metropolitan airports commission.

"Disaster" is defined as "a situation that creates an actual or imminent serious threat to the health and safety of persons, or a situation that has resulted or is likely to result in catastrophic loss to property or the environment, and for which traditional sources of relief and assistance within the affected area are unable to repair or prevent the injury or loss."

(b) Specifies the eligibility requirements:

- the governor must declare a disaster is subject to this section of law;
- the political subdivision must be in the disaster area, at least in part;
- the expenses incurred must be necessitated by the disaster and the aid spent in the disaster area in the political subdivision;
- the expenses incurred must arise in a defined period of time or a defined incident referred to in the declaration;
- the aid must be for expenses not eligible for federal disaster aid;
- the expenses must exceed five percent of the gross tax levy;

- the expenses incurred must be for a public purpose.

**Subd. 2. Matching requirement.** Requires one dollar local for every three dollars in state aid. Permits the nonstate portion to be in kind.

**Subd. 3. Applying and accounting for aid; payments.** Requires the commissioner of public safety to establish procedures for political subdivisions to apply and account for aid received. Requires the commissioner to make the aid payments in installments and as matched by the political subdivision.

**2 Appropriation.** Makes a standing appropriation of an unspecified amount to the commissioner of public safety for state aid to political subdivisions for extraordinary local disaster relief. Requires available state aid to be prorated among applicants so as not to exceed the appropriated amount.