

AN ACT

relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 130, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 130.914 to read as follows:

Sec. 130.914. RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM. (a)

In this section:

(1) "Ambulance" means a vehicle registered with the Department of State Health Services as an emergency medical service provider vehicle.

(2) "Grant program" means the rural ambulance service grant program established by this section.

(3) "Qualified county" is a county that has a population of 68,750 or less.

(4) "Qualified rural ambulance service provider" means a private safety entity or public agency as those terms are defined by Section 772.001, Health and Safety Code, licensed by the Department of State Health Services to provide emergency medical services and operating predominantly in a qualified county.

(b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the rural ambulance service grant program to support the state purpose of ensuring adequate ground ambulance services by providing financial assistance to qualified rural ambulance service

1 providers in qualified counties.

2 (c) Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a
3 qualified county's fiscal year, the county, on behalf of a
4 qualified rural ambulance service provider, may submit a grant
5 application to the comptroller. A county may submit only one
6 application each fiscal year. If a county is awarded a grant under
7 the grant program for a qualified rural ambulance service provider,
8 the qualified rural ambulance service provider is ineligible to
9 receive additional grant funds under the grant program from another
10 qualified county in the same fiscal year.

11 (d) The comptroller may award a grant to a qualified county
12 using money appropriated to the comptroller for that purpose and
13 only in accordance with a written agreement between the comptroller
14 and the county that includes conditions providing the comptroller
15 with sufficient control to ensure the public purpose of providing
16 adequate ground ambulance services is accomplished. In awarding
17 grants, the comptroller shall consider the county's ability to
18 otherwise obtain the money necessary to provide adequate ground
19 ambulance services, including considering for the county the
20 average:

21 (1) per capita taxable property value;

22 (2) per capita income; and

23 (3) unemployment rate.

24 (e) The comptroller may award a grant under this section
25 only in the following applicable amount:

26 (1) for a county with a population of less than 10,000,
27 an amount not to exceed \$500,000; or

1 (2) for a county with a population between 10,000 and
2 68,750, an amount not to exceed \$350,000.

3 (f) A qualified county awarded a grant under this section
4 may use or authorize the use of the grant money only to purchase
5 ambulances, including necessary accessories and modifications, as
6 provided by comptroller rule.

7 (g) A qualified county awarded a grant under this section
8 may not reduce the budget of the qualified rural ambulance service
9 provider for the county's next fiscal year following the fiscal
10 year of the grant award.

11 (h) The comptroller may disburse a grant award to a
12 qualified county before the county places an order for an
13 ambulance. The county shall purchase and take possession of an
14 ambulance with money awarded under the grant program not later than
15 the fifth anniversary of the date the county receives the money.
16 Until an ambulance becomes available for purchase, the county may
17 deposit the grant funds in an interest bearing account and may treat
18 any resulting proceeds as grant funds under the grant program. The
19 comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section,
20 including rules to establish:

21 (1) a standardized application process, the form to
22 apply for a grant, and the manner of submitting the form;

23 (2) deadlines for:

24 (A) applying for a grant;

25 (B) disbursing grant money; and

26 (C) spending grant money; and

27 (3) procedures for:

1 (A) monitoring the disbursement of grant money to
2 ensure compliance with this section; and

3 (B) requiring the return of grant money awarded
4 if a county fails to use the money for a purpose authorized by this
5 section.

6 SECTION 2. A qualified county, as defined by Section
7 130.914(a)(3), Local Government Code, as added by this Act, may
8 apply for a rural ambulance service grant on or after January 1,
9 2026.

10 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2026, the comptroller
11 of public accounts shall establish and administer the rural
12 ambulance service grant program and adopt the rules necessary to
13 implement the program as required by Section 130.914, Local
14 Government Code, as added by this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3000 was passed by the House on May 2, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 124, Nays 13, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3000 on May 30, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 112, Nays 24, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3000 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor