

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 1771
By: Keel
County Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Under current law, 9-1-1 spending by a county that is part of the statewide 9-1-1 system is limited to the expenses involved in the emergency call coming to the call center. Authority for spending by these jurisdictions does not include the cost of the person answering the call, or any service or equipment beyond that point. Since September 11, 2001, the need for live backups or “redundancy” for communication equipment, systems, and services has been identified as a priority to ensure emergency operations can function in the event the primary emergency operations center fails. House Bill 1771 will expand the definition of how 9-1-1 funds may be spent by authorizing a county with a population of at least 700,000 to pay for the same costs allowed by current law for a emergency communication district.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee’s opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 771.075, Health and Safety Code, to make a conforming change.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter D, Chapter 771, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 771.0751, as follows:

Sec. 771.0751. USE OF REVENUE IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) Provides that this section applies only to the use of fees and surcharges collected under this subchapter (Financing State Emergency Communications) in a county subject to this subchapter with a population of at least 700,000.

(b) In addition to the use authorized or required by Section 771.072(e) or (f), 771.073(e), or 771.075, fees and surcharges collected under this subchapter may be used for any costs considered necessary by the Commission on State Emergency Communications and attributable to:

- (1) designing a 9-1-1 system; or
- (2) obtaining and maintaining equipment and personnel necessary to establish and operate:
 - (A) a public safety answering point and related operations; or
 - (B) other related answering points and operations.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

