

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 3497  
By: Raymond  
Public Health  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

House Bill 3312, 77th Session, added Subchapter E, Health and Safety Code, Section 771 which established a pilot program to test the efficacy of using emergency medical dispatchers located in a regional emergency medical dispatch resource center to provide life-saving and other emergency medical instructions to persons who need guidance while awaiting the arrival of emergency medical personnel. Although the funds were appropriated by the Legislature, they were not certified by the Comptroller. This bill extends the pilot program for another two years and provides additional options for funding the program, including allowing political subdivisions in a region to agree to pay the costs associated with the program.

### **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**

The bill provides that in addition to appropriated funds and grants, a political subdivision that participates may pay an appropriate share of the cost of the pilot program, and the pilot program may be funded if a sufficient number of political subdivisions in a region that could be served by the program offer to pay the Texas Department of Health (TDH) an amount that in the aggregate, together with any other funding received, is sufficient to fund the pilot program. TDH shall enter into contracts with offering political subdivisions and when the amount under signed contracts plus any other funding available is sufficient to fund the program for the region, TDH shall implement the program. The bill extends the expiration date of the pilot program from September 1, 2003 until September 1, 2005.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

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

### **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE**

The substitute adds Section 3 of the bill to establish a work group to assist the Texas Department of Health in developing, implementing, and evaluating the pilot program and preparing a report on the department's findings.