

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R4239 JTS-D

S.B. 413
By: Madla
Subcommittee on Higher Education
3/14/2003
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, it is difficult for rural emergency medical services (EMS) firms to maintain a qualified workforce. There seems to be a correlation between providers' inability to provide continuing education and retaining qualified personnel. Having trained EMS personnel is integral to protecting the health and welfare of Texas' citizens. As proposed, S.B. 413 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Department of Health, and the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board to jointly study and report to the legislature on ways to improve EMS personnel's access to educational opportunities, focusing on rural areas.

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. (a) Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), the Texas Department of Health (TDH), and the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (TIF) jointly to study ways to improve emergency medical services personnel's access to educational opportunities, with a specific focus on rural areas.

(b) Requires THECB, TDH, and TIF to submit a written report of the study findings to the legislature not later than January 15, 2005.

(c) Provides that this section expires on September 1, 2005.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.