

By: Cook of Colorado

H.B. No. 873

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the rural volunteer fire department insurance program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 614.071(6), Government Code, as added by Chapter 1363, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is amended to read as follows:

(6) "Volunteer fire department" means a fire department operated by its members, including a partially paid fire department, that:

(A) is operated on a not-for-profit basis, including a department exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt organization in Section 501(c)(3) of that code; and

(B) participates in a firefighter certification program administered:

(i) under Section 419.071; ~~or~~

(ii) by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas; or

(iii) by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

SECTION 2. Section 614.073, Government Code, as added by Chapter 1363, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 614.073. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The director shall

1 appoint an advisory committee to advise the director in regard to  
2 the administration of the program.

3 (b) The advisory committee consists of five members with ~~as~~  
4 ~~follows:~~

5 [~~(1) two members of the Texas Rural Fire Advisory~~  
6 ~~Council;~~

7 [~~(2) two elected county officials; and~~

8 [~~(3) one elected representative of a municipality with~~  
9 ~~a population of 10,000 or less.~~

10 [~~(c) The director shall appoint] one [advisory committee]  
11 member appointed from each of the following geographic regions of  
12 the state: north, south, east, west, and central.~~

13 (c) A member of the advisory committee is entitled to  
14 reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses incurred by the member  
15 in performing duties as a member of the advisory committee, subject  
16 to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by general  
17 law or the General Appropriations Act. A member may not receive  
18 compensation for services.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.