

1-1 By: Cook of Colorado (Senate Sponsor - Armbrister) H.B. No. 873  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House March 31, 2003;  
1-3 April 3, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Intergovernmental Relations; May 7, 2003, reported favorably by  
1-5 the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 7, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the rural volunteer fire department insurance program.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Section 614.071(6), Government Code, as added by  
1-11 Chapter 1363, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001,  
1-12 is amended to read as follows:

1-13 (6) "Volunteer fire department" means a fire  
1-14 department operated by its members, including a partially paid fire  
1-15 department, that:

1-16 (A) is operated on a not-for-profit basis,  
1-17 including a department exempt from federal income tax under Section  
1-18 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt  
1-19 organization in Section 501(c)(3) of that code; and

1-20 (B) participates in a firefighter certification  
1-21 program administered:

1-22 (i) under Section 419.071; ~~or~~

1-23 (ii) by the State Firemen's and Fire  
1-24 Marshals' Association of Texas; or

1-25 (iii) by the National Wildfire Coordinating  
1-26 Group.

1-27 SECTION 2. Section 614.073, Government Code, as added by  
1-28 Chapter 1363, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001,  
1-29 is amended to read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 614.073. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The director shall  
1-31 appoint an advisory committee to advise the director in regard to  
1-32 the administration of the program.

1-33 (b) The advisory committee consists of five members with ~~as~~  
1-34 ~~follows:~~

1-35 ~~[(1) two members of the Texas Rural Fire Advisory~~  
1-36 ~~Council;~~

1-37 ~~[(2) two elected county officials; and~~

1-38 ~~[(3) one elected representative of a municipality with~~  
1-39 ~~a population of 10,000 or less.~~

1-40 ~~[(c) The director shall appoint] one [advisory committee]~~  
1-41 member appointed from each of the following geographic regions of  
1-42 the state: north, south, east, west, and central.

1-43 (c) A member of the advisory committee is entitled to  
1-44 reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses incurred by the member  
1-45 in performing duties as a member of the advisory committee, subject  
1-46 to any applicable limitation on reimbursement provided by general  
1-47 law or the General Appropriations Act. A member may not receive  
1-48 compensation for services.

1-49 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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