

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 570

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regional emergency medical dispatch resource centers program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 771.102, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 771.102. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH RESOURCE CENTERS [~~PILOT~~] PROGRAM. (a) The center, with the assistance of the advisory council appointed under Section 773.012, shall establish a [~~pilot~~] program to use [~~test the efficacy of using~~] emergency medical dispatchers located in [~~a~~] regional emergency medical dispatch resource centers [~~center~~] to provide life-saving and other emergency medical instructions to persons who need guidance while awaiting the arrival of emergency medical personnel. The purpose of a regional emergency medical dispatch resource center is not to dispatch personnel or equipment resources but to serve as a resource to provide pre-arrival instructions that may be accessed by selected public safety answering points that are not adequately staffed or funded to provide those services.

(b) The commission shall provide technical assistance to the center to facilitate the implementation of the [~~pilot~~] project.

(c) The center, with the assistance of the advisory council, shall:

1 (1) design criteria and protocols and provide  
2 oversight as needed to conduct the [~~pilot~~] program;

3 (2) collect the necessary data to evaluate [~~the~~  
4 ~~outcome of~~] the [~~pilot~~] program; and

5 (3) report its findings to the legislature.

6 SECTION 2. Section 771.103, Health and Safety Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 771.103. PARTICIPATION IN [~~PILOT~~] PROGRAM. (a) The  
9 center shall determine which public safety answering points are  
10 interested in participating in the [~~pilot~~] program.

11 (b) Participating public safety answering points must agree  
12 to participate in any required training and to provide regular  
13 reports required by the center for the [~~pilot~~] program.

14 SECTION 3. Section 771.104, Health and Safety Code, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Sec. 771.104. SELECTION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND  
17 REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH RESOURCE CENTERS. (a) The  
18 center, with the assistance of the advisory council, may select  
19 public safety answering points to participate in the [~~pilot~~]  
20 program or to serve as regional emergency medical dispatch resource  
21 centers. A public safety answering point may participate in the  
22 [~~pilot~~] program and serve as a regional emergency medical dispatch  
23 resource center. A public safety answering point selected for the  
24 [~~pilot~~] program or to serve as a resource center must:

25 (1) have a fully functional quality assurance program  
26 that measures each emergency medical dispatcher's compliance with  
27 the medical protocol;

1           (2) have dispatch personnel who meet the requirements  
2 for emergency medical dispatcher certification or the equivalent as  
3 determined by the Department of State Health Services;

4           (3) use emergency medical dispatch protocols approved  
5 by a physician medical director knowledgeable in emergency medical  
6 dispatch;

7           (4) have sufficient experience in providing  
8 pre-arrival instructions; and

9           (5) have sufficient resources to handle the additional  
10 workload and responsibilities of the [~~pilot~~] program.

11           (b) In selecting an existing public safety answering point  
12 to act as a resource center, the center shall consider a public  
13 safety answering point's ability to keep records and produce  
14 reports to measure the effectiveness of the [~~pilot~~] program. The  
15 center shall share information regarding a public safety answering  
16 point's abilities with the advisory council.

17           SECTION 4. Section 771.106, Health and Safety Code, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19           Sec. 771.106. FUNDING OF [~~PILOT~~] PROGRAM. (a) Money in the  
20 9-1-1 services fee fund and other state funds may be appropriated to  
21 The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston on behalf of the  
22 center to fund the [~~pilot~~] program.

23           (b) The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston on  
24 behalf of the center and the center are also authorized to seek  
25 grant funding for the [~~pilot~~] program.

26           (c) A political subdivision that participates in the  
27 [~~pilot~~] program may pay an appropriate share of the cost of the

1 ~~[pilot]~~ program.

2 (d) The provisions in this subchapter that require the  
3 center to establish, conduct, and evaluate the ~~[pilot]~~ program are  
4 contingent on the center receiving funding in accordance with this  
5 section. If a sufficient number of political subdivisions in a  
6 region that could be served by a ~~[pilot]~~ program offer to pay the  
7 center an amount that in the aggregate, together with any other  
8 funding received under this section, is sufficient to fund the  
9 ~~[pilot]~~ program for the region, The University of Texas Medical  
10 Branch at Galveston, on behalf of the center:

11 (1) shall enter into contracts with the offering  
12 political subdivisions under which each will pay an appropriate  
13 share of the cost; and

14 (2) when the amount under the signed contracts,  
15 together with any other funding received under this section, is  
16 sufficient to fund the ~~[pilot]~~ program for the region, shall  
17 implement the ~~[pilot]~~ program for the region.

18 SECTION 5. Section 771.107, Health and Safety Code, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Sec. 771.107. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. The center shall  
21 biennially report its findings to the governor, the presiding  
22 officer of each house of the legislature, and the advisory council  
23 no later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year ~~[through 2009]~~.

24 SECTION 6. Section 771.109, Health and Safety Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 Sec. 771.109. WORK GROUP. (a) The center may appoint a  
27 ~~[pilot]~~ program work group to assist the center in developing,

1 implementing, and evaluating the [~~pilot~~] program and preparing a  
2 report on the center's findings.

3 (b) A member of the work group receives no additional  
4 compensation for serving on the [~~pilot~~] program work group and may  
5 not be reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred while  
6 conducting the business of the [~~pilot~~] program work group.

7 (c) The [~~pilot~~] program work group is not subject to Chapter  
8 2110, Government Code.

9 SECTION 7. Section 771.110, Health and Safety Code, is  
10 repealed.

11 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.