

1-1 By: Deuell S.B. No. 570  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 12, 2007; February 26, 2007,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human  
1-4 Services; April 26, 2007, reported favorably by the following  
1-5 vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 26, 2007, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the regional emergency medical dispatch resource  
1-9 centers program.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 771.102, Health and Safety Code, is  
1-12 amended to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 771.102. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
1-14 DISPATCH RESOURCE CENTERS [~~PILOT~~] PROGRAM. (a) The center, with  
1-15 the assistance of the advisory council appointed under Section  
1-16 773.012, shall establish a [~~pilot~~] program to use [~~test the~~  
1-17 ~~efficacy of using~~] emergency medical dispatchers located in [~~a~~]  
1-18 regional emergency medical dispatch resource centers [~~center~~] to  
1-19 provide life-saving and other emergency medical instructions to  
1-20 persons who need guidance while awaiting the arrival of emergency  
1-21 medical personnel. The purpose of a regional emergency medical  
1-22 dispatch resource center is not to dispatch personnel or equipment  
1-23 resources but to serve as a resource to provide pre-arrival  
1-24 instructions that may be accessed by selected public safety  
1-25 answering points that are not adequately staffed or funded to  
1-26 provide those services.

1-27 (b) The commission shall provide technical assistance to  
1-28 the center to facilitate the implementation of the [~~pilot~~] project.

1-29 (c) The center, with the assistance of the advisory council,  
1-30 shall:

1-31 (1) design criteria and protocols and provide  
1-32 oversight as needed to conduct the [~~pilot~~] program;

1-33 (2) collect the necessary data to evaluate [~~the~~  
1-34 ~~outcome of~~] the [~~pilot~~] program; and

1-35 (3) report its findings to the legislature.

1-36 SECTION 2. Section 771.103, Health and Safety Code, is  
1-37 amended to read as follows:

1-38 Sec. 771.103. PARTICIPATION IN [~~PILOT~~] PROGRAM. (a) The  
1-39 center shall determine which public safety answering points are  
1-40 interested in participating in the [~~pilot~~] program.

1-41 (b) Participating public safety answering points must agree  
1-42 to participate in any required training and to provide regular  
1-43 reports required by the center for the [~~pilot~~] program.

1-44 SECTION 3. Section 771.104, Health and Safety Code, is  
1-45 amended to read as follows:

1-46 Sec. 771.104. SELECTION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND  
1-47 REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH RESOURCE CENTERS. (a) The  
1-48 center, with the assistance of the advisory council, may select  
1-49 public safety answering points to participate in the [~~pilot~~]  
1-50 program or to serve as regional emergency medical dispatch resource  
1-51 centers. A public safety answering point may participate in the  
1-52 [~~pilot~~] program and serve as a regional emergency medical dispatch  
1-53 resource center. A public safety answering point selected for the  
1-54 [~~pilot~~] program or to serve as a resource center must:

1-55 (1) have a fully functional quality assurance program  
1-56 that measures each emergency medical dispatcher's compliance with  
1-57 the medical protocol;

1-58 (2) have dispatch personnel who meet the requirements  
1-59 for emergency medical dispatcher certification or the equivalent as  
1-60 determined by the Department of State Health Services;

1-61 (3) use emergency medical dispatch protocols approved  
1-62 by a physician medical director knowledgeable in emergency medical  
1-63 dispatch;

1-64 (4) have sufficient experience in providing

2-1 pre-arrival instructions; and

2-2 (5) have sufficient resources to handle the additional  
2-3 workload and responsibilities of the [~~pilot~~] program.

2-4 (b) In selecting an existing public safety answering point  
2-5 to act as a resource center, the center shall consider a public  
2-6 safety answering point's ability to keep records and produce  
2-7 reports to measure the effectiveness of the [~~pilot~~] program. The  
2-8 center shall share information regarding a public safety answering  
2-9 point's abilities with the advisory council.

2-10 SECTION 4. Section 771.106, Health and Safety Code, is  
2-11 amended to read as follows:

2-12 Sec. 771.106. FUNDING OF [~~PILOT~~] PROGRAM. (a) Money in  
2-13 the 9-1-1 services fee fund and other state funds may be  
2-14 appropriated to The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston  
2-15 on behalf of the center to fund the [~~pilot~~] program.

2-16 (b) The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston on  
2-17 behalf of the center and the center are also authorized to seek  
2-18 grant funding for the [~~pilot~~] program.

2-19 (c) A political subdivision that participates in the  
2-20 [~~pilot~~] program may pay an appropriate share of the cost of the  
2-21 [~~pilot~~] program.

2-22 (d) The provisions in this subchapter that require the  
2-23 center to establish, conduct, and evaluate the [~~pilot~~] program are  
2-24 contingent on the center receiving funding in accordance with this  
2-25 section. If a sufficient number of political subdivisions in a  
2-26 region that could be served by a [~~pilot~~] program offer to pay the  
2-27 center an amount that in the aggregate, together with any other  
2-28 funding received under this section, is sufficient to fund the  
2-29 [~~pilot~~] program for the region, The University of Texas Medical  
2-30 Branch at Galveston, on behalf of the center:

2-31 (1) shall enter into contracts with the offering  
2-32 political subdivisions under which each will pay an appropriate  
2-33 share of the cost; and

2-34 (2) when the amount under the signed contracts,  
2-35 together with any other funding received under this section, is  
2-36 sufficient to fund the [~~pilot~~] program for the region, shall  
2-37 implement the [~~pilot~~] program for the region.

2-38 SECTION 5. Section 771.107, Health and Safety Code, is  
2-39 amended to read as follows:

2-40 Sec. 771.107. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. The center shall  
2-41 biennially report its findings to the governor, the presiding  
2-42 officer of each house of the legislature, and the advisory council  
2-43 no later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year [~~through 2009~~].

2-44 SECTION 6. Section 771.109, Health and Safety Code, is  
2-45 amended to read as follows:

2-46 Sec. 771.109. WORK GROUP. (a) The center may appoint a  
2-47 [~~pilot~~] program work group to assist the center in developing,  
2-48 implementing, and evaluating the [~~pilot~~] program and preparing a  
2-49 report on the center's findings.

2-50 (b) A member of the work group receives no additional  
2-51 compensation for serving on the [~~pilot~~] program work group and may  
2-52 not be reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred while  
2-53 conducting the business of the [~~pilot~~] program work group.

2-54 (c) The [~~pilot~~] program work group is not subject to Chapter  
2-55 2110, Government Code.

2-56 SECTION 7. Section 771.110, Health and Safety Code, is  
2-57 repealed.

2-58 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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