

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 4532

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reports regarding the provision of emergency ground ambulance services in counties.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 774, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 774.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 774.005. COUNTY SELF-ASSESSMENT OF PROVISION OF EMERGENCY GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES. (a) Each county shall assess the emergency ground ambulance services provided in that county from all sources.

(b) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall adopt rules governing the self-assessment required by this section. At minimum, the rules must require each county, in the county's self-assessment, to address:

(1) the minimum training, licensing, or certification of ambulance personnel;

(2) the staffing of ambulances in the county;

(3) the types of vehicles used as ambulances in the county;

(4) the type of advanced life support or basic life support, as defined by Section 773.003, that ambulance personnel provide;

(5) the local deployment plan for ground ambulance

1 services; and

2 (6) other information determined by the executive  
3 commissioner as necessary for inclusion in the county's  
4 self-assessment of emergency ground ambulance services.

5 (c) A county or municipality may establish reporting  
6 standards for emergency ground ambulance services that are stricter  
7 than those adopted under this section.

8 (d) A county, emergency services district, or other entity  
9 may operate an emergency ground ambulance service that is operated  
10 in accordance with federal laws, the laws of this state, and other  
11 state and local rules.

12 (e) Not later than March 1 of each year, each county shall  
13 publish a report on the availability of emergency ground ambulance  
14 services within the county during the previous calendar year based  
15 on the county's self-assessment using factors adopted by the  
16 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission  
17 under Subsection (b) or by the county under Subsection (c). The  
18 county shall make the report available on the county's Internet  
19 website and annually publish a summary of the report, together with  
20 the address of the website containing the report, in a newspaper of  
21 general circulation in the county. If the county does not operate a  
22 website, the county shall publish the report annually in a  
23 newspaper of general circulation in the county.

24 SECTION 2. (a) The executive commissioner of the Health and  
25 Human Services Commission shall adopt rules as required by Section  
26 774.005, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, not later  
27 than January 1, 2010.

1           (b) Notwithstanding Section 774.005(e), Health and Safety  
2 Code, as added by this Act, a county is not required to publish a  
3 report as required by that section before March 1, 2011.

4           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.