

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 2476

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the North Texas Trauma and Burn Authority in Trauma Service Area E.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 4, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 291 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 291. NORTH TEXAS TRAUMA AND BURN AUTHORITY

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 291.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the North Texas Trauma and Burn Authority Act.

Sec. 291.002. PURPOSES; LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION. (a) The purposes of this chapter are:

(1) the development, implementation, management, and supervision of an integrated and cohesive system for improved Level I and Level II trauma and burn care in the 19 counties of northern Texas that comprise Trauma Service Area E;

(2) the creation of regional trauma and burn authorities to develop and implement plans to design, modify, and expand infrastructure to support trauma care facilities;

(3) the reduction of burdens and demands on the limited funds available for trauma care and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of expenditures for trauma care; and

(4) to seek funding from the federal government under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. No.

1 111-5) and from other funding sources.

2 (b) This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect its  
3 purposes.

4 Sec. 291.003. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

5 (1) "Authority" means the North Texas Trauma and Burn  
6 Authority (NTTBA).

7 (2) "Board" means the board of the authority.

8 Sec. 291.004. CREATION OF AUTHORITY. An authority is  
9 created in Trauma Service Area E, as defined by 25 T.A.C. Section  
10 157.122, and includes Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath,  
11 Fannin, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto,  
12 Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties.

13 Sec. 291.005. POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. The authority is a  
14 political subdivision of this state.

15 [Sections 291.006-291.100 reserved for expansion]

16 SUBCHAPTER B. AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATION

17 Sec. 291.101. BOARD; APPOINTMENT. (a) The authority is  
18 governed by a board of nine members appointed as provided by this  
19 section.

20 (b) The commissioners court of Dallas County shall appoint  
21 three members.

22 (c) The commissioners court of Tarrant County shall appoint  
23 two members.

24 (d) The commissioners courts of Cooke, Denton, and Wise  
25 Counties shall collectively appoint one member.

26 (e) The commissioners courts of Collin, Fannin, and Grayson  
27 Counties shall collectively appoint one member.

1       (f) The commissioners courts of Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, and  
2 Rockwall Counties shall collectively appoint one member.

3       (g) The commissioners courts of Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo  
4 Pinto, Parker, and Somervell Counties shall collectively appoint  
5 one member.

6       (h) If the commissioners courts cannot agree on a member to  
7 appoint under Subsection (d), (e), (f), or (g), board members that  
8 have been appointed to the authority shall select a representative  
9 from the group of counties whose commissioners courts could not  
10 agree on an appointment.

11       Sec. 291.102. TERM. (a) A board member serves a  
12 three-year term. Terms shall be staggered so that one-third of the  
13 board members' terms expire each year.

14       (b) The initial board members shall draw lots to determine  
15 which members serve a one-year term, which members serve a two-year  
16 term, and which members serve a three-year term.

17       Sec. 291.103. QUALIFICATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS. To be  
18 eligible to serve as a member of the board, a person must:

- 19               (1) be a United States citizen;  
20               (2) be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the  
21 term the person is appointed to fill; and  
22               (3) be knowledgeable in the field of health care,  
23 transportation, or local government.

24       Sec. 291.104. VACANCY. (a) If a vacancy occurs on the  
25 board, the commissioners court or courts that originally appointed  
26 the position vacated shall appoint a qualified person to fill the  
27 vacancy not later than the 30th day after the date the vacancy

1 occurs.

2 (b) If the commissioners court or courts fail to appoint a  
3 member to the board to fill a vacancy by the 30th day after the date  
4 the vacancy occurs, the remaining members of the board may, by vote  
5 of the board, appoint a replacement.

6 Sec. 291.105. OFFICERS. (a) The board shall elect from  
7 among its members:

8 (1) a chair;

9 (2) a vice chair to preside in the chair's absence; and

10 (3) a secretary.

11 (b) The chair, vice chair, and secretary shall each serve in  
12 that office until the expiration of the person's term as a member of  
13 the board.

14 Sec. 291.106. COMPENSATION; EXPENSES. A member of the  
15 board serves without compensation but may, on the approval of the  
16 entire board, be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the  
17 performance of the member's official duties.

18 [Sections 291.107-291.200 reserved for expansion]

19 SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES

20 Sec. 291.201. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The authority shall:

21 (1) be responsible for the development,  
22 implementation, management, and supervision of an integrated and  
23 cohesive system for improved Level I and Level II trauma and burn  
24 care in the counties of northern Texas that comprise Trauma Service  
25 Area E;

26 (2) develop and prepare to manage a plan to handle mass  
27 casualties resulting from any large-scale medical emergency

1 including a pandemic outbreak, natural disaster, or homeland  
2 security event;

3 (3) seek funding from the federal government under the  
4 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. No. 111-5)  
5 and from other funding sources;

6 (4) coordinate the allocation of resources for trauma  
7 and burn services across its multicounty service area;

8 (5) assist in the provision of transportation services  
9 needed for trauma victims and in the event of a large-scale  
10 disaster;

11 (6) manage funds received from all sources to support  
12 the efficient provision of trauma and burn services and direct  
13 those funds to the appropriate trauma facilities;

14 (7) assist in the recruitment and retention of trauma  
15 service providers;

16 (8) conduct or support research that improves the  
17 quality and effectiveness of Level I and Level II trauma and burn  
18 patient care in Trauma Service Area E by comparing the clinical  
19 outcomes, effectiveness, and appropriateness of procedures for the  
20 diagnosis and treatment of Level I and Level II trauma and burns;  
21 and

22 (9) create a regional electronic clinical data network  
23 and information exchange that will collect and share all clinical  
24 data regarding Level I and Level II trauma and burn patient care  
25 services provided in Trauma Service Area E and that will serve as  
26 the primary network and information exchange in the event of a  
27 pandemic outbreak, natural disaster, or medically related homeland

1 security event.

2 (b) The authority, acting through its board and without  
3 state approval, may:

4 (1) adopt rules for the regulation of the authority's  
5 affairs;

6 (2) adopt an official seal;

7 (3) acquire, hold, and dispose of property in the  
8 exercise of the authority's powers and the performance of the  
9 authority's duties under this chapter;

10 (4) enter into contracts or agreements necessary or  
11 incidental to the authority's duties and powers under this chapter;  
12 and

13 (5) do all things necessary or appropriate to carry  
14 out the powers expressly granted by this chapter.

15 (c) The authority may sue and be sued in the authority's own  
16 name.

17 Sec. 291.202. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; DUTIES. (a) The board  
18 shall appoint a person qualified by training and experience as the  
19 executive director for the authority.

20 (b) The executive director serves at the will of the board  
21 and for a term of not more than four years.

22 (c) The executive director is entitled to compensation as  
23 determined by the board.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.