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S.B. No. 1265

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the accreditation of paramedic training programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 773, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 773.0506 and 773.0507 to read as follows:

Sec. 773.0506. ACCREDITATION OF PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAMS. (a) The department shall post on the department's Internet website information related to the accreditation process for a paramedic training program, including a schedule of workshops and online seminars related to the accreditation process.

(b) In awarding local project grant funds intended for paramedic training programs, the department shall give priority to paramedic training programs that:

- (1) serve a rural area of the state;
- (2) serve an area of the state along the international border;
- (3) are financially sound but have a demonstrated need for financial help to become accredited; or
- (4) are unable to enter into a consortium agreement because of geographic location.

Sec. 773.0507. PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM ACCREDITATION STUDY. (a) The advisory council established under Section 773.012 shall coordinate with the department and the Texas Department of

1 Rural Affairs to study the effect that a national accreditation
2 requirement would have on:

3 (1) private paramedic training programs;
4 (2) the availability of paramedic training programs in
5 rural areas of this state; and

6 (3) the availability of paramedics in rural areas of
7 the state and areas of the state along the international border.

8 (b) The study must evaluate the options for accrediting
9 paramedic training program providers in this state, including
10 examining the requirements in other states relating to paramedic
11 training programs.

12 (c) Not later than September 1, 2012, the advisory council
13 shall report to the legislature the findings of the study and the
14 council's recommendations regarding paramedic training that will
15 increase the availability of high-quality paramedic training
16 programs in urban and rural areas of this state.

17 (d) This section expires September 1, 2013.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.