

By: Bell

H.B. No. 479

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to transfer of the regional emergency medical dispatch  
3 resource centers program to the Commission on State Emergency  
4 Communications.

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

6 SECTION 1. Sections 771.102(a) and (c), Health and Safety  
7 Code, are amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The commission [~~center~~], with the assistance of the  
9 advisory council appointed under Section 773.012, shall administer  
10 the program in which [~~establish a program to use~~] emergency medical  
11 dispatchers located in regional emergency medical dispatch  
12 resource centers are used to provide life-saving and other  
13 emergency medical instructions to persons who need guidance while  
14 awaiting the arrival of emergency medical personnel. The purpose  
15 of a regional emergency medical dispatch resource center is not to  
16 dispatch personnel or equipment resources but to serve as a  
17 resource to provide pre-arrival instructions that may be accessed  
18 by selected public safety answering points that are not adequately  
19 staffed or funded to provide those services.

20 (c) The commission [~~center~~], with the assistance of the  
21 advisory council, shall:

22 (1) design criteria and protocols and provide  
23 oversight as needed to conduct the program;

24 (2) collect the necessary data to evaluate the

1 program; and

2 (3) report its findings to the legislature.

3 SECTION 2. Sections 771.103, 771.104, and 771.105, Health  
4 and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

5 Sec. 771.103. PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM. (a) The  
6 commission [~~center~~] shall determine which public safety answering  
7 points are interested in participating in the program.

8 (b) Participating public safety answering points must agree  
9 to participate in any required training and to provide regular  
10 reports required by the commission [~~center~~] for the program.

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

20 (1) have a fully functional quality assurance program  
21 that measures each emergency medical dispatcher's compliance with  
22 the medical protocol;

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

26 (3) use emergency medical dispatch protocols approved  
27 by a physician medical director knowledgeable in emergency medical

1 dispatch;

2 (4) have sufficient experience in providing  
3 pre-arrival instructions; and

4 (5) have sufficient resources to handle the additional  
5 workload and responsibilities of the program.

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

12 Sec. 771.105. CRITERIA FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH  
13 INTERVENTION. The commission [~~center~~], with the assistance of the  
14 advisory council, shall define criteria that establish the need for  
15 emergency medical dispatch intervention to be used by participating  
16 public safety answering points to determine which calls are to be  
17 transferred to the regional emergency medical dispatch resource  
18 center for emergency medical dispatch intervention.

19 SECTION 3. Sections 771.106(a), (b), and (d), Health and  
20 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

21 (a) State [~~Money in the 9-1-1 services fee fund and other~~  
22 ~~state~~] funds may be appropriated to [~~The University of Texas~~  
23 ~~Medical Branch at Galveston on behalf of~~] the commission [~~center~~]  
24 to fund the program.

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

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

18 SECTION 4. Section 771.107, Health and Safety Code, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

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

24 SECTION 5. Section 771.109(a), Health and Safety Code, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (a) The commission [~~center~~] may appoint a program work group  
27 to assist the commission [~~center~~] in [~~developing,~~] implementing[~~,~~]

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

3 SECTION 6. Sections 771.101 and 771.102(b), Health and  
4 Safety Code, are repealed.

5 SECTION 7. (a) In this section:

6 (1) "Center" means the area health education center at  
7 The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston that meets the  
8 requirements of 42 U.S.C. Section 294a and has received federal  
9 funding as an area health education center.

10 (2) "Program" means the regional emergency medical  
11 dispatch resource centers program established under Subchapter E,  
12 Chapter 771, Health and Safety Code, as that subchapter existed  
13 before amendment by this Act.

14 (b) On the effective date of this Act, the administration of  
15 the program is transferred from the center to the Commission on  
16 State Emergency Communications and all unspent and unobligated  
17 funds appropriated by the legislature to The University of Texas  
18 Medical Branch at Galveston on behalf of the center to fund the  
19 program are transferred to the commission.

20 (c) The Commission on State Emergency Communications with  
21 the agreement of the center may accept the transfer of any records,  
22 employees, or real or personal property of the center relating to  
23 the operation of the program.

24 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.