

1-1 By: Bell, Metcalf (Senate Sponsor - Perry) H.B. No. 479  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 16, 2015;  
 1-3 April 30, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Health  
 1-4 and Human Services; May 15, 2015, reported favorably by the  
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 15, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to transfer of the regional emergency medical dispatch  
 1-20 resource centers program to the Commission on State Emergency  
 1-21 Communications.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Sections 771.102(a) and (c), Health and Safety  
 1-24 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-25 (a) The commission [~~center~~], with the assistance of the  
 1-26 advisory council appointed under Section 773.012, shall administer  
 1-27 the program in which [~~establish a program to use~~] emergency medical  
 1-28 dispatchers located in regional emergency medical dispatch  
 1-29 resource centers are used to provide life-saving and other  
 1-30 emergency medical instructions to persons who need guidance while  
 1-31 awaiting the arrival of emergency medical personnel. The purpose  
 1-32 of a regional emergency medical dispatch resource center is not to  
 1-33 dispatch personnel or equipment resources but to serve as a  
 1-34 resource to provide pre-arrival instructions that may be accessed  
 1-35 by selected public safety answering points that are not adequately  
 1-36 staffed or funded to provide those services.

1-37 (c) The commission [~~center~~], with the assistance of the  
 1-38 advisory council, shall:

1-39 (1) design criteria and protocols and provide  
 1-40 oversight as needed to conduct the program;

1-41 (2) collect the necessary data to evaluate the  
 1-42 program; and

1-43 (3) report its findings to the legislature.

1-44 SECTION 2. Sections 771.103, 771.104, and 771.105, Health  
 1-45 and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-46 Sec. 771.103. PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM. (a) The  
 1-47 commission [~~center~~] shall determine which public safety answering  
 1-48 points are interested in participating in the program.

1-49 (b) Participating public safety answering points must agree  
 1-50 to participate in any required training and to provide regular  
 1-51 reports required by the commission [~~center~~] for the program.

1-52 Sec. 771.104. SELECTION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND  
 1-53 REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH RESOURCE CENTERS. (a) The  
 1-54 commission [~~center~~], with the assistance of the advisory council,  
 1-55 may select public safety answering points to participate in the  
 1-56 program or to serve as regional emergency medical dispatch resource  
 1-57 centers. A public safety answering point may participate in the  
 1-58 program and serve as a regional emergency medical dispatch resource  
 1-59 center. A public safety answering point selected for the program or  
 1-60 to serve as a resource center must:

1-61 (1) have a fully functional quality assurance program

2-1 that measures each emergency medical dispatcher's compliance with  
2-2 the medical protocol;

2-3 (2) have dispatch personnel who meet the requirements  
2-4 for emergency medical dispatcher certification or the equivalent as  
2-5 determined by the Department of State Health Services;

2-6 (3) use emergency medical dispatch protocols approved  
2-7 by a physician medical director knowledgeable in emergency medical  
2-8 dispatch;

2-9 (4) have sufficient experience in providing  
2-10 pre-arrival instructions; and

2-11 (5) have sufficient resources to handle the additional  
2-12 workload and responsibilities of the program.

2-13 (b) In selecting an existing public safety answering point  
2-14 to act as a resource center, the commission [~~center~~] shall consider  
2-15 a public safety answering point's ability to keep records and  
2-16 produce reports to measure the effectiveness of the program. The  
2-17 commission [~~center~~] shall share information regarding a public  
2-18 safety answering point's abilities with the advisory council.

2-19 Sec. 771.105. CRITERIA FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH  
2-20 INTERVENTION. The commission [~~center~~], with the assistance of the  
2-21 advisory council, shall define criteria that establish the need for  
2-22 emergency medical dispatch intervention to be used by participating  
2-23 public safety answering points to determine which calls are to be  
2-24 transferred to the regional emergency medical dispatch resource  
2-25 center for emergency medical dispatch intervention.

2-26 SECTION 3. Sections 771.106(a), (b), and (d), Health and  
2-27 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

2-28 (a) State [~~Money in the 9-1-1 services fee fund and other~~  
2-29 ~~state~~] funds may be appropriated to [~~The University of Texas~~  
2-30 ~~Medical Branch at Galveston on behalf of~~] the commission [~~center~~]  
2-31 to fund the program.

2-32 (b) The commission may [~~University of Texas Medical Branch~~  
2-33 ~~at Galveston on behalf of the center and the center are also~~  
2-34 ~~authorized to~~] seek grant funding for the program.

2-35 (d) The provisions in this subchapter that require the  
2-36 commission [~~center~~] to [~~establish,~~] conduct[~~7~~] and evaluate the  
2-37 program are contingent on the commission [~~center~~] receiving funding  
2-38 in accordance with this section. If a sufficient number of  
2-39 political subdivisions in a region that could be served by a program  
2-40 offer to pay the commission [~~center~~] an amount that in the  
2-41 aggregate, together with any other funding received under this  
2-42 section, is sufficient to fund the program for the region, [~~The~~  
2-43 ~~University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, on behalf of~~] the  
2-44 commission [~~center~~]:

2-45 (1) shall enter into contracts with the offering  
2-46 political subdivisions under which each will pay an appropriate  
2-47 share of the cost; and

2-48 (2) when the amount under the signed contracts,  
2-49 together with any other funding received under this section, is  
2-50 sufficient to fund the program for the region, shall implement the  
2-51 program for the region.

2-52 SECTION 4. Section 771.107, Health and Safety Code, is  
2-53 amended to read as follows:

2-54 Sec. 771.107. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. The commission  
2-55 [~~center~~] shall biennially report its findings to the governor, the  
2-56 presiding officer of each house of the legislature, and the  
2-57 advisory council no later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

2-58 SECTION 5. Section 771.109(a), Health and Safety Code, is  
2-59 amended to read as follows:

2-60 (a) The commission [~~center~~] may appoint a program work group  
2-61 to assist the commission [~~center~~] in [~~developing,~~] implementing[~~7~~]  
2-62 and evaluating the program and preparing a report on the  
2-63 commission's [~~center's~~] findings.

2-64 SECTION 6. Sections 771.101 and 771.102(b), Health and  
2-65 Safety Code, are repealed.

2-66 SECTION 7. (a) In this section:

2-67 (1) "Center" means the area health education center at  
2-68 The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston that meets the  
2-69 requirements of 42 U.S.C. Section 294a and has received federal

3-1 funding as an area health education center.

3-2 (2) "Program" means the regional emergency medical  
3-3 dispatch resource centers program established under Subchapter E,  
3-4 Chapter 771, Health and Safety Code, as that subchapter existed  
3-5 before amendment by this Act.

3-6 (b) On the effective date of this Act, the administration of  
3-7 the program is transferred from the center to the Commission on  
3-8 State Emergency Communications and all unspent and unobligated  
3-9 funds appropriated by the legislature to The University of Texas  
3-10 Medical Branch at Galveston on behalf of the center to fund the  
3-11 program are transferred to the commission.

3-12 (c) The Commission on State Emergency Communications with  
3-13 the agreement of the center may accept the transfer of any records,  
3-14 employees, or real or personal property of the center relating to  
3-15 the operation of the program.

3-16 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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