

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 1063

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state assistance to certain counties for indigent burial costs.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 694, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 694.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 694.004. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN ELIGIBLE COUNTIES. (a) In this section, "department" means the Department of State Health Services.

(b) This section applies only to a county that is adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico and an international border.

(c) The department may distribute funds as provided by this section to an eligible county to assist the county in providing for the disposition of the body of a deceased pauper under this chapter.

(d) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall adopt rules governing the application procedures and the eligibility requirements for assistance under this section. The procedures must provide that the department shall make a determination with respect to an application for assistance not later than the 90th day after the date the application is submitted to the department in accordance with the procedures established by the department.

(e) The department shall provide assistance to a county that applies for assistance if the department determines that the county

1 meets the department's eligibility requirements adopted under this
2 section.

3 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 1, 2015, the
4 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission
5 shall adopt the rules necessary to implement Section 694.004,
6 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

7 (b) Section 694.004, Health and Safety Code, as added by
8 this Act, applies only to an application for assistance submitted
9 by a county for approval on or after January 1, 2016.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.