

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 1971

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the requirements and protocols for the use of nighttime  
3 triage equipment by emergency medical services personnel.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code, is  
6 amended by adding Subdivision (18-a) to read as follows:

7 (18-a) "Nighttime triage equipment" means a  
8 multicolored illuminated tag with blue, green, red, and yellow  
9 lights that is reusable, water resistant to 30 feet, and able to  
10 provide a flashing and a solid light.

11 SECTION 2. Section 773.112, Health and Safety Code, is  
12 amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

13 (d) If the department determines under Section 773.1135(b)  
14 that nighttime triage equipment is appropriate for any emergency  
15 medical services and trauma care system, the rules adopted under  
16 Subsection (a) must establish minimum requirements for resources  
17 and equipment used by emergency medical services personnel in a  
18 trauma service area to treat patients at night and during adverse  
19 conditions using nighttime triage equipment.

20 SECTION 3. Section 773.1135, Health and Safety Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 773.1135. DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT. (a) The department  
23 shall develop performance measures for regional advisory councils  
24 in trauma service areas to:

1 (1) promote the provision of a minimum level of  
2 emergency medical services in a trauma service area in accordance  
3 with the rules adopted under Section 773.112;

4 (2) promote the provision of quality care and service  
5 by the emergency medical services and trauma care system in  
6 accordance with the rules adopted under Section 773.112; and

7 (3) maximize the accuracy of information provided by a  
8 regional advisory council to the department or bureau for increased  
9 council effectiveness.

10 (b) The department shall determine whether nighttime triage  
11 equipment is appropriate for each emergency medical services and  
12 trauma care system.

13 SECTION 4. Section 773.114, Health and Safety Code, is  
14 amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

15 (c) If the department determines under Section 773.1135(b)  
16 that nighttime triage equipment is appropriate for any emergency  
17 medical services and trauma care system, that system must have  
18 protocols for the use of nighttime triage equipment at night and  
19 during adverse conditions.

20 SECTION 5. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
21 of this Act, the Department of State Health Services shall  
22 determine whether nighttime triage equipment is appropriate for any  
23 emergency medical services and trauma care system, and the  
24 executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission  
25 shall adopt any rules necessary to implement Section 773.112(d),  
26 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.