

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the emergency medical services assistance program.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER I. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 773.251. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Educational curriculum" means a distance-learning emergency medical services curriculum that provides remote courses of instruction and training to emergency medical services personnel who serve a rural area.

(2) "General academic teaching institution," "medical and dental unit," "other agency of higher education," and "public technical institute" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(3) "Program" means the emergency medical services assistance program established under this subchapter.

Sec. 773.252. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish the emergency medical services assistance program to provide financial and educational assistance to eligible emergency medical services providers.

(b) The program includes grants to eligible emergency medical services providers and an educational curriculum to provide

1 training to rural emergency medical services personnel.

2 Sec. 773.253. RULES. (a) The executive commissioner shall
3 adopt rules necessary to implement this subchapter, including rules
4 for:

5 (1) determining eligibility under the program;

6 (2) establishing requirements for the educational
7 curriculum; and

8 (3) establishing requirements for a general academic
9 teaching institution, medical and dental unit, other agency of
10 higher education, or public technical institute that develops and
11 offers the educational curriculum.

12 (b) The rules must require that:

13 (1) an emergency medical services provider
14 demonstrate financial need to be eligible for assistance under the
15 program;

16 (2) a general academic teaching institution, medical
17 and dental unit, other agency of higher education, or public
18 technical institute applying to offer the educational curriculum
19 demonstrate the qualifications necessary to develop and offer the
20 educational curriculum; and

21 (3) the educational curriculum provide to rural
22 emergency medical services personnel the remote instructional
23 courses and training necessary for the personnel to achieve
24 department certification under Subchapter C.

25 Sec. 773.254. APPLICATION BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
26 PROVIDER. (a) An emergency medical services provider may apply to
27 the department in the form and manner provided by department rule to

1 receive assistance under the program.

2 (b) If the department determines an applicant is eligible
3 for assistance under the program, the department may provide a
4 grant under Section 773.257 to the applicant.

5 Sec. 773.255. EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM. (a) A general
6 academic teaching institution, medical and dental unit, other
7 agency of higher education, or public technical institute may apply
8 to the department in the form and manner provided by department rule
9 to develop and offer the educational curriculum under this
10 subchapter.

11 (b) The department may contract with not more than three
12 qualified general academic teaching institutions, medical and
13 dental units, other agencies of higher education, or public
14 technical institutes to develop and offer the educational
15 curriculum under this subchapter.

16 Sec. 773.256. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The department may
17 provide administrative support to the program.

18 Sec. 773.257. GRANTS. (a) The commissioner may use money
19 from the permanent fund for emergency medical services and trauma
20 care established under Section 403.106, Government Code, to provide
21 grants, in addition to funding available from other sources, to
22 emergency medical services providers applying for assistance under
23 the program or to provide funding to a general academic teaching
24 institution, medical and dental unit, other agency of higher
25 education, or public technical institute offering the educational
26 curriculum under this subchapter.

27 (b) The commissioner shall ensure that at least 60 percent

1 of the grants provided under this section are provided to emergency
2 medical services providers that serve a rural area.

3 (c) The executive commissioner by rule shall establish a
4 procedure for the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council to
5 establish priorities for issuance of grants under this section.

6 (d) The department shall distribute grants under this
7 section in accordance with the requirements of Subsection (b) and
8 the grant priorities established under Subsection (c).

9 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding another provision of this Act,
10 the Department of State Health Services is required to implement
11 this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically
12 for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money
13 specifically for that purpose, the Department of State Health
14 Services may, but is not required to, implement this Act using other
15 appropriations available for that purpose.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1407 was passed by the House on May 4, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 128, Nays 18, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1407 on May 25, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 130, Nays 14, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1407 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor