

By: Isaac

H.B. No. 1510

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transfer of certain functions related to emergency services districts from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of State Health Services and the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

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

SECTION 1. Section 419.904, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 419.904. ~~[TECHNICAL]~~ ASSISTANCE TO EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICTS. The commission may ~~[on request]~~ provide:

(1) to emergency services districts technical assistance on request ~~[to emergency services districts]~~, including advice on the efficient and effective provision of fire protection within a district;

(2) to fire departments in rural areas information relating to assistance programs offered to rural volunteer firefighters, including the federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program to help fire departments increase staffing and deployment capabilities; and

(3) to rural homeowners information relating to the benefits of volunteer fire departments, including a reduction in homeowners insurance risk ratings, lower homeowners insurance rates, and better fire protection.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 12, Health and Safety

Code, is amended by adding Section 12.021 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.021. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT PROGRAM. The department shall serve as a resource to provide interested rural communities with:

(1) general information about emergency services districts; and

(2) information and training related to the establishment of an emergency services district.

SECTION 3. Sections 775.083(a), (b), and (c), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) On or before January 1 of each year, a district shall file with the ~~[Texas]~~ Department of State Health Services ~~[Rural Affairs]~~ an annual report that includes the following:

(1) the district's name;

(2) the name of each county in which the district is located;

(3) the district's business address;

(4) the name, mailing address, and term of office of each commissioner;

(5) the name, mailing address, and term of office of the district's general manager, executive director, and fire chief;

(6) the name of each legal counsel or other consultant for the district; and

(7) the district's annual budget and tax rate for the preceding fiscal year.

(b) The ~~[Texas]~~ Department of State Health Services ~~[Rural Affairs]~~ may not charge a fee for filing the report.

1 (c) The [~~Texas~~] Department of State Health Services [~~Rural~~
2 ~~Affairs~~] shall develop and maintain an Internet-based system that
3 enables:

4 (1) a district to securely file the report and update
5 the district's information; and

6 (2) the public to view, in a searchable format, the
7 reports filed by districts under this section.

8 SECTION 4. Section [487.061](#), Government Code, is repealed.

9 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act to Section
10 [775.083](#), Health and Safety Code, applies only to an annual report
11 due on or after January 1, 2019. An annual report due before
12 January 1, 2019, is governed by the law as it existed immediately
13 before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in
14 effect for that purpose.

15 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.