

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 1471

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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) "Postsecondary educational institution" means any institution, public or private, which provides courses of instruction beyond that offered in secondary schools.

(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 training to rural emergency medical services personnel.

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

- 4 (1) determining eligibility under the program;
5 (2) establishing requirements for the educational
6 curriculum; and
7 (3) establishing requirements for a postsecondary
8 educational institution that develops and offers the educational
9 curriculum.

10 (b) The rules must require that:

- 11 (1) an emergency medical services provider
12 demonstrate financial need to be eligible for assistance under the
13 program;
14 (2) a postsecondary educational institution applying
15 to offer the educational curriculum demonstrate the qualifications
16 necessary to develop and offer the educational curriculum; and
17 (3) the educational curriculum provide to rural
18 emergency medical services personnel the remote instructional
19 courses and training necessary for the personnel to achieve
20 department certification under Subchapter C.

21 Sec. 773.254. APPLICATION BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
22 PROVIDER. (a) An emergency medical services provider may apply to
23 the department in the form and manner provided by department rule to
24 receive assistance under the program.

25 (b) If the department determines an applicant is eligible
26 for assistance under the program, the department may provide a
27 grant under this subchapter to the applicant.

1 Sec. 773.255. EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM. (a) A postsecondary
2 educational institution may apply to the department in the form and
3 manner provided by department rule to develop and offer the
4 educational curriculum under this subchapter.

5 (b) The department may contract with not more than three
6 qualified postsecondary educational institutions to develop and
7 offer the educational curriculum under this subchapter.

8 Sec. 773.256. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The department may
9 provide administrative support to the program.

10 Sec. 773.257. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE
11 ACCOUNT. (a) In this section, "account" means the emergency
12 medical services assistance account established under this
13 section.

14 (b) The emergency medical services assistance account is
15 established as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund.

16 (c) The account is composed of:

17 (1) money deposited to the credit of the account under
18 Section 542.4031, Transportation Code; and

19 (2) notwithstanding Section 404.071, Government Code,
20 interest earned on the investment of money in the account and
21 depository interest allocable to the account.

22 (d) Money in the account may be appropriated to the
23 department only for the purposes described by Subsection (e).

24 (e) The commissioner may use the money appropriated from the
25 account to provide grants, in addition to funding available from
26 other sources, to emergency medical services providers applying for
27 assistance under the program or to provide funding to a

1 postsecondary educational institution offering the educational
2 curriculum under this subchapter.

3 Sec. 773.258. GRANT ALLOCATION. (a) The commissioner
4 shall ensure that at least 60 percent of the grants provided under
5 this subchapter are provided to emergency medical services
6 providers that serve a rural area.

7 (b) The executive commissioner by rule shall establish a
8 procedure for the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council to
9 establish priorities for issuance of grants under this subchapter.

10 (c) The department shall distribute grants under this
11 subchapter in accordance with the requirements of Subsection (a)
12 and the grant priorities established under Subsection (b).

13 SECTION 2. Section 542.4031(g), Transportation Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (g) Of the money received by the comptroller under this
16 section, the comptroller shall deposit:

17 (1) 50.5 [~~67~~] percent to the credit of the undedicated
18 portion of the general revenue fund; [~~and~~]

19 (2) 33 percent to the credit of the designated trauma
20 facility and emergency medical services account under Section
21 780.003, Health and Safety Code; and

22 (3) 16.5 percent to the credit of the emergency
23 medical services assistance account under Section 773.257, Health
24 and Safety Code.

25 SECTION 3. Section 542.4031(g), Transportation Code, as
26 amended by this Act, applies only to the distribution of revenue
27 collected on or after the effective date of this Act. The

1 distribution of revenue collected before the effective date of this
2 Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the revenue was
3 collected, and that law is continued in effect for the purpose of
4 the distribution of that revenue.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.