By:  Guillen, Raymond (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 2952

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2019; April 17, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce; May 10, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 10, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Hancock              X

Nichols              X

Campbell             X

Creighton            X

Menéndez             X

Paxton               X

Schwertner           X

Whitmire                       X

Zaffirini            X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an emergency radio infrastructure grant program.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter N, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.4015 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.4015.  GRANTS TO FINANCE INTEROPERABLE STATEWIDE EMERGENCY RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE. (a) The office of the governor shall establish a program to provide grants as provided by Section 411.402.

(b)  The office of the governor shall establish procedures to administer the grant program, including a procedure for the submission of a proposal and a procedure to be used by the office to evaluate a proposal.

(c)  The office of the governor shall enter into a contract that includes performance requirements with each grant recipient. The office shall monitor and enforce the terms of the contract.

(d)  The office of the governor shall adopt rules to administer this section.

SECTION 2.  Section 411.402, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 411.402.  USE OF GRANTS [~~REVENUE~~]. (a) A grant provided under Section 411.4015 [~~Fees collected under Section 133.102(e)(11), Local Government Code,~~] may only:

(1)  be used for the planning, development, provision, enhancement, or ongoing maintenance of an interoperable statewide emergency radio infrastructure;

(2)  be used in accordance with the statewide integrated public safety radio communications plan developed under Subchapter F, Chapter 421;

(3)  be used for the development of a regional or state interoperable radio communication system;

(4)  be made [~~distributed as grants by the department~~] to:

(A)  regional councils of government that have entered into interlocal agreements authorized under state law; and

(B)  state agencies requiring emergency radio infrastructure; or

(5)  be used for other public safety purposes.

(b)  A grant provided under Section 411.4015 [~~Fees collected and distributed as provided by this subchapter~~] may not be used to purchase or maintain radio subscriber equipment.

SECTION 3.  Sections 411.403(b) and (c), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b)  The account consists of:

(1)  fees deposited in the account as provided by Section 133.102(e)(9) [~~133.102(e)(11)~~], Local Government Code; and

(2)  notwithstanding Section 404.071, all interest attributable to money held in the account.

(c)  Money in the account may be used only for grants made under this subchapter [~~appropriated to the department for the purposes described by Section 411.402~~].

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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