

By: Price, et al.

H.B. No. 1477

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of grants under the emergency medical services assistance program and the distribution of certain revenue received by the comptroller.

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

SECTION 1. Section 773.251, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (4) to read as follows:

(4) "Scholarship program" means the Emergency Medical Services Scholarship Program established under Section 773.2555.

SECTION 2. Section 773.252(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The program includes grants to:

(1) eligible emergency medical services providers;
(2) trauma service area regional advisory councils;
(3) provide funding for [and] an educational curriculum to train [provide training to] rural emergency medical services personnel; and

(4) provide funding for the scholarship program.

SECTION 3. Section 773.253(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this subchapter, including rules for:

(1) determining eligibility under the program;
(2) establishing requirements for the educational

1 curriculum; ~~and~~

2 (3) establishing requirements for a general academic
3 teaching institution, medical and dental unit, other agency of
4 higher education, or public technical institute that develops and
5 offers the educational curriculum; and

6 (4) determining eligibility under the scholarship
7 program and the coursework that qualifies for a scholarship awarded
8 under the scholarship program.

9 SECTION 4. Subchapter I, Chapter 773, Health and Safety
10 Code, is amended by adding Section 773.2555 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 773.2555. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP
12 PROGRAM. (a) The executive commissioner by rule shall establish
13 the Emergency Medical Services Scholarship Program to provide
14 financial assistance to emergency medical services personnel to pay
15 tuition and other applicable fees for eligible coursework, as
16 determined in accordance with the rules adopted under this
17 subchapter, at institutions of higher education.

18 (b) Emergency medical services personnel may apply to the
19 department in the form and manner provided by executive
20 commissioner rule to receive a scholarship under the scholarship
21 program.

22 (c) If the department determines an applicant is eligible
23 for assistance under the scholarship program, the department may
24 provide a grant under Section 773.257 to the applicant.

25 SECTION 5. The heading to Section 773.257, Health and
26 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

27 Sec. 773.257. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE

1 PROGRAM ACCOUNT; GRANTS.

2 SECTION 6. Section 773.257(a), Health and Safety Code, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (a) The emergency medical services assistance program
5 account is created as a dedicated account in the general revenue
6 fund of the state treasury. Money in the account may be appropriated
7 only to the department [~~The commissioner may use money from the~~
8 ~~permanent fund for emergency medical services and trauma care~~
9 ~~established under Section 403.106, Government Code,~~] to provide
10 grants, in addition to funding available from other sources, to:

11 (1) emergency medical services providers applying for
12 assistance under the program;

13 (2) trauma service area regional advisory councils;

14 (3) [~~or to~~] provide funding to a general academic
15 teaching institution, medical and dental unit, other agency of
16 higher education, or public technical institute offering the
17 educational curriculum under this subchapter; or

18 (4) emergency medical services personnel applying for
19 assistance under the scholarship program.

20 SECTION 7. Section 542.4031(g), Transportation Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

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

24 (1) 57 [~~67~~] percent to the credit of the undedicated
25 portion of the general revenue fund; [~~and~~]

26 (2) 33 percent to the credit of the designated trauma
27 facility and emergency medical services account under Section

1 780.003, Health and Safety Code; and

2 (3) 10 percent to the credit of the emergency medical
3 services assistance program account created under Section 773.257,
4 Health and Safety Code.

5 SECTION 8. As soon as practicable after the effective date
6 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
7 Services Commission shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the
8 changes in law made by this Act.

9 SECTION 9. Section 542.4031(g), Transportation Code, as
10 amended by this Act, applies only to the distribution of revenue
11 collected on or after the effective date of this Act. The
12 distribution of revenue collected before the effective date of this
13 Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the revenue was
14 collected, and that law is continued in effect for the purpose of
15 the distribution of that revenue.

16 SECTION 10. The Department of State Health Services is
17 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the
18 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If
19 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
20 purpose, the department may, but is not required to, implement a
21 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that
22 purpose.

23 SECTION 11. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.