

By: King of Hemphill

H.B. No. 3070

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to grants for emergency assistance under the rural volunteer fire department assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 614.102(c), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The director shall:

(1) determine reasonable criteria and qualifications for the distribution of money from the volunteer fire department assistance fund, including:

(A) the frequency, size, and severity of past wildfires in a volunteer fire department's jurisdiction; ~~and~~

(B) the potential for loss or damage to property resulting from future wildfires in the department's jurisdiction; and

(C) the department's need for emergency assistance under Section 614.103(a-1); and

(2) establish a procedure for reporting and processing requests for money from the fund.

SECTION 2. Section 614.103, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) A volunteer fire department whose equipment is damaged or lost in responding to a declared state of disaster under Chapter 418 in an area subject to the declaration may submit a

1 request for emergency assistance from the fund for:

2 (1) the replacement or repair of damaged or lost
3 personal protective equipment or other firefighting equipment; and

4 (2) the purchase of a machine to clean personal
5 protective equipment.

6 SECTION 3. Subchapter G, Chapter 614, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 614.1055 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 614.1055. SEPARATE ACCOUNT FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY
9 ASSISTANCE. (a) The service shall maintain a separate account
10 within the volunteer fire department assistance fund.

11 (b) The account shall contain money from any legislative
12 appropriations for the purposes of Subsection (c).

13 (c) The money in the account may be used only to award grants
14 in response to a request for emergency assistance under Section
15 614.103(a-1).

16 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date
17 of this Act, the director of the Texas A&M Forest Service shall
18 adopt rules as necessary to implement Subchapter G, Chapter 614,
19 Government Code, as amended by this Act.

20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.