

1-1 By: King of Hemphill, et al. H.B. No. 3070  
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini)  
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 23, 2019;  
 1-4 April 29, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Water  
 1-5 & Rural Affairs; May 19, 2019, reported favorably by the following  
 1-6 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 19, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15			X	

1-16 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-17 AN ACT

1-18 relating to grants for emergency assistance under the rural  
 1-19 volunteer fire department assistance program.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Section 614.102, Government Code, is amended by  
 1-22 amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (h) to read  
 1-23 as follows:

1-24 (a) The Texas A&M Forest Service shall administer the  
 1-25 program established under this subchapter, and the director may  
 1-26 adopt rules necessary to assist volunteer fire departments in  
 1-27 paying for equipment, including the replacement or repair of  
 1-28 equipment, and training of personnel, including by providing  
 1-29 emergency assistance under Section 614.103(a-1).

1-30 (c) The director shall:

1-31 (1) determine reasonable criteria and qualifications  
 1-32 for the distribution of money from the volunteer fire department  
 1-33 assistance fund, including:

1-34 (A) the frequency, size, and severity of past  
 1-35 wildfires in a volunteer fire department's jurisdiction; ~~and~~

1-36 (B) the potential for loss or damage to property  
 1-37 resulting from future wildfires in the department's jurisdiction;  
 1-38 and

1-39 (C) the department's need for emergency  
 1-40 assistance under Section 614.103(a-1); and

1-41 (2) establish a procedure for reporting and processing  
 1-42 requests for money from the fund.

1-43 (h) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, at  
 1-44 least 10 percent of appropriations for a state fiscal year from the  
 1-45 fund for the purpose of providing assistance to volunteer fire  
 1-46 departments under the program is allocated for providing emergency  
 1-47 assistance under Section 614.103(a-1). If the amount of assistance  
 1-48 requested under Section 614.103(a-1) in a state fiscal year is less  
 1-49 than the amount allocated under this subsection, the remaining  
 1-50 amount may be used for other types of requests for assistance.

1-51 SECTION 2. Section 614.103, Government Code, is amended by  
 1-52 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

1-53 (a-1) A volunteer fire department whose equipment is  
 1-54 damaged or lost in responding to a declared state of disaster under  
 1-55 Section 418.014 in an area subject to the declaration may submit a  
 1-56 request for emergency assistance from the fund for:

1-57 (1) the replacement or repair of damaged or lost  
 1-58 personal protective equipment or other firefighting equipment; and

1-59 (2) the purchase of a machine to clean personal  
 1-60 protective equipment.

1-61 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date

2-1 of this Act, the director of the Texas A&M Forest Service shall  
2-2 adopt rules as necessary to implement Subchapter G, Chapter 614,  
2-3 Government Code, as amended by this Act.

2-4 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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