By:  Hinojosa S.B. No. 1399

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the awarding of grants to initiate, expand, maintain, and improve emergency medical services and to support medical systems and facilities that provide trauma care.

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

SECTION 3. Section 773.119(b), Health and Safety Code, is amended as follows:

(b) The executive commissioner by rule shall establish eligibility criteria for awarding the grants. The rules must require the department to consider:

(1) the need of an area for the provision of emergency medical services or trauma care and the extent to which the grant would meet the identified need;

(2) the availability of personnel and training programs;

(3) the availability of other funding sources;

(4) the assurance of providing quality services;

(5) the use or acquisition of helicopters for emergency medical evacuation; [~~and~~]

(6) the development or existence of an emergency medical services system; and

(7) the development of a centralized system for the dispatch, triage, transport, and transfer of patients, including the use or acquisition of technology, to ensure coordinated patient transports and transfers, the efficient utilization of trauma care and emergency medical services.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.