

By: Garcia Hernandez

H.B. No. 176

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program to assist nonprofit organizations in the provision of emergency communications services in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 771, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 771.080 to read as follows:

Sec. 771.080. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM. (a) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the commission shall establish and administer a grant program to assist nonprofit organizations in the provision of emergency communications services, including 9-1-1 service, to end users in this state.

(b) The commission by rule shall:

(1) develop an application process for a nonprofit organization applying for a grant under this section;

(2) develop eligibility and selection criteria for a nonprofit organization applying for a grant under this section;

(3) develop procedures for commission approval of the use of grant money awarded under this section; and

(4) establish accountability controls for grant recipients to ensure the public purpose of providing emergency communications services is accomplished and this state receives a return benefit.

(c) In addition to money appropriated by the legislature,

1 the commission may accept gifts, grants, or donations from any
2 source to administer and finance the grant program established
3 under this section.

4 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
5 of this Act, the Commission on State Emergency Communications shall
6 establish the emergency communications services grant program
7 required by Section 771.080, Health and Safety Code, as added by
8 this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
10 last day of the legislative session.