

By: Perez of El Paso

H.B. No. 5389

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a grant program to support the disposition of deceased paupers' bodies.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 694, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 694.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 694.004. DECEASED PAUPERS GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The Health and Human Services Commission may develop a deceased paupers grant program to award grants from the deceased paupers grant account established by this section to counties for the purpose of paying certain costs associated with the disposition of deceased paupers' bodies in accordance with Section 694.002.

(b) The Health and Human Services Commission may award a grant under the grant program to a county to be used for:

(1) paying the costs incurred in disposing of deceased paupers' bodies in accordance with Section 694.002; and

(2) administering the county's body disposition activities.

(c) The deceased paupers grant account is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund and consists of:

(1) appropriations of money to the account by the legislature;

(2) gifts, grants, and other donations received for the account; and

1 (3) interest earned on the investment of money in the
2 account.

3 (d) Money in the deceased paupers grant account may be used
4 by the Health and Human Services Commission only to:

5 (1) award grants under this section; and

6 (2) administer the deceased paupers grant program
7 under this section.

8 (e) If the Health and Human Services Commission develops a
9 deceased paupers grant program under this section, the executive
10 commissioner shall adopt rules for the administration of that
11 program.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.