

By: Sparks

S.B. No. 868

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program
3 and authorizing an increase in the assessment on certain insurers
4 that fund the program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 2007.002, Insurance Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 2007.002. ASSESSMENT. The comptroller shall assess
9 against all insurers to which this chapter applies amounts for each
10 state fiscal year necessary, as determined by the commissioner, to
11 collect ~~[a combined total equal to the lesser of:~~

12 ~~[(1)]~~ the total amount that the General Appropriations
13 Act appropriates from the volunteer fire department assistance fund
14 account in the general revenue fund for that state fiscal year,
15 other than appropriations for contributions to the Texas Emergency
16 Services Retirement System made under Section 614.104(d),
17 Government Code ~~[, or~~

18 ~~[(2) \$30 million]~~.

19 SECTION 2. Section 614.102, Government Code, is amended by
20 adding Subsections (i) and (j) to read as follows:

21 (i) At least 10 percent of appropriations for a state fiscal
22 year from the fund is allocated for the purpose of providing
23 assistance to volunteer fire departments in areas of the state
24 defined by the service as high risk for large wildfires.

1 (j) If the amount of assistance requested in a state fiscal
2 year by eligible departments described by Subsection (i) is less
3 than the amount allocated under that subsection, the remaining
4 amount may be used for other types of requests for assistance
5 described by this subchapter.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.