

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 23, 2025

TO: Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB3000 by King (Relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.), **As Engrossed**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB3000, As Engrossed: a negative impact of (\$864,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027.

There would be an additional indeterminate fiscal impact dependent on the amount of legislative appropriations for the purpose of providing grants.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2026	(\$594,000)
2027	(\$270,000)
2028	(\$270,000)
2029	(\$270,000)
2030	(\$270,000)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1	<i>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2025</i>
2026	(\$594,000)	2.0
2027	(\$270,000)	2.0
2028	(\$270,000)	2.0
2029	(\$270,000)	2.0
2030	(\$270,000)	2.0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would require the Comptroller to establish and administer the Rural Ambulance Service Grant Program to provide financial assistance to qualified rural ambulance service providers in qualified counties.

The Comptroller could award a grant to a qualified county using money appropriated for that purpose, and in accordance with a contract between the Comptroller that provides the Comptroller with control to ensure that

the county is providing adequate ground ambulance services. Award amounts would not exceed \$500,000 for counties with a population less than 10,000, and \$350,000 for counties with a population between 10,000 and 68,750. A county could use a grant award only to purchase ambulances as provided by Comptroller rule, and before the fifth anniversary of the date the county receives the money. A county could submit only one application per fiscal year.

Methodology

According to the 2023 U.S Census Annual Estimates of the Residential Population for Counties in Texas, there are 92 counties with populations less than 10,000, and 109 counties with a population between 10,000 and 68,750. If all 201 counties applied and received the amount for which they are eligible, the total grants awarded would be \$84,150,000 per fiscal year, or \$168,300,000 for the biennium.

This analysis assumes the Comptroller would require two additional full-time equivalent (2.0 FTEs) positions to implement the legislation. The additional FTEs include: 1.0 Program Specialist IV to review applications, disburse funds and review compliance with the grant program, and 1.0 Attorney V to support the program with rulemaking and legal counsel support. The cost for the two FTEs would be \$270,000 per fiscal year.

Technology

This analysis assumes the Comptroller would incur a one-time cost of \$324,000 in fiscal year 2026 for 2,160 programming hours necessary to develop a new grant system.

Local Government Impact

Depending on levels of appropriations for the program, counties with a population less than 10,000 could have a positive fiscal impact of \$500,000 per fiscal year, and counties with a population between 10,000 and 68,750 could have a positive fiscal impact of \$350,000 per fiscal year.

Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

LBB Staff: JMc, KK, CSmi, NPe, LCO