

SENATE AMENDMENTS
2nd Printing

By: King, Ashby, Phelan, Frank, Landgraf, H.B. No. 3000
et al.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to
3 qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 130, Local Government
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 130.914 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 130.914. RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICE GRANT PROGRAM. (a)
8 In this section:

9 (1) "Grant program" means the rural ambulance service
10 grant program established by this section.

11 (2) "Qualified county" is a county that has a
12 population of 68,750 or less.

13 (3) "Qualified rural ambulance service provider"
14 means a private safety entity or public agency as those terms are
15 defined by Section 772.001, Health and Safety Code, licensed by the
16 Department of State Health Services to provide emergency medical
17 services and operating predominantly in a rural area.

18 (b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the
19 rural ambulance service grant program to support the state purpose
20 of ensuring adequate ground ambulance services by providing
21 financial assistance to qualified rural ambulance service
22 providers in qualified counties.

23 (c) Not later than the 30th day after the first day of a
24 qualified county's fiscal year, the county may submit a grant

1 application to the comptroller. A county may submit only one
2 application each fiscal year. If a county is awarded a grant under
3 this program, the county is ineligible to apply for an additional
4 grant.

5 (d) The comptroller may award a grant to a qualified county
6 using money appropriated to the comptroller for that purpose and
7 only in accordance with a contract between the comptroller and the
8 county that includes conditions providing the comptroller with
9 sufficient control to ensure the public purpose of providing
10 adequate ground ambulance services is accomplished. In awarding
11 grants, the comptroller shall consider:

12 (1) the distance from a qualified county's county seat
13 to the nearest Level I trauma facility; and

14 (2) the county's ability to otherwise obtain the money
15 necessary to provide adequate ground ambulance services.

16 (e) The comptroller may award a grant under this section
17 only in the following applicable amount:

18 (1) for a county with a population of less than 10,000,
19 an amount not to exceed \$500,000; or

20 (2) for a county with a population between 10,000 and
21 68,750, an amount not to exceed \$350,000.

22 (f) A qualified county awarded a grant under this section
23 may use or authorize the use of the grant money only to purchase
24 ambulances as provided by comptroller rule.

25 (g) A qualified county awarded a grant under this section
26 may not reduce the budget of the qualified rural ambulance service
27 provider for the county's next fiscal year following the fiscal

1 year of the grant award.

2 (h) The comptroller may disburse a grant award to a
3 qualified county before the county places an order for an
4 ambulance. The county shall purchase and take possession of an
5 ambulance with money awarded under the grant program not later than
6 the fifth anniversary of the date the county receives the money.
7 The comptroller shall adopt rules necessary to implement this
8 section, including rules to establish:

9 (1) a standardized application process, the form to
10 apply for a grant, and the manner of submitting the form;

11 (2) deadlines for:

12 (A) applying for a grant;

13 (B) disbursing grant money; and

14 (C) spending grant money;

15 (3) procedures for:

16 (A) monitoring the disbursement of grant money to
17 ensure compliance with this section; and

18 (B) requiring the return of grant money awarded
19 if a county fails to use the money for a purpose authorized by this
20 section; and

21 (4) the type of ground ambulance vehicles that may be
22 purchased with grant money.

23 SECTION 2. A qualified county, as defined by Section
24 130.914(a)(2), Local Government Code, as added by this Act, may
25 apply for a rural ambulance service grant on or after January 1,
26 2026.

27 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2026, the comptroller

H.B. No. 3000

1 of public accounts shall establish and administer the rural
2 ambulance service grant program and adopt the rules necessary to
3 implement the program as required by Section 130.914, Local
4 Government Code, as added by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

ADOPTED

MAY 27 2025

Lately Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. 1

BY: *Chad Bur*

1 Amend H.B. No. 3000 (senate committee report) in SECTION 1 of
2 the bill, in added Section 130.914, Local Government Code, as
3 follows:

4 (1) In added Subsection (a)(3) (page 1, line 40), strike
5 "rural area" and substitute "qualified county".

6 (2) In added Subsection (a) (page 1, between lines 31 and
7 32), insert the following appropriately numbered subdivision in the
8 subsection and renumber subsequent subdivisions of the subsection
9 accordingly:

10 () "Ambulance" means a vehicle registered with the
11 Department of State Health Services as an emergency medical service
12 provider vehicle.

13 (3) In added Subsection (c) (page 1, line 47), between
14 "county" and "may", insert ", on behalf of a qualified rural
15 ambulance service provider,".

16 (4) In added Subsection (c) (page 1, lines 49 through 51),
17 strike the final sentence of the subsection and substitute the
18 following:

19 If a county is awarded a grant under the grant program for a
20 qualified rural ambulance service provider, the qualified rural
21 ambulance service provider is ineligible to receive additional
22 grant funds under the grant program from another qualified county
23 in the same fiscal year.

24 (5) In added Subsection (d) (page 1, line 54), strike
25 "contract" and substitute "written agreement".

26 (6) In added Subsection (d) (page 1, line 57 through page 2,
27 line 1), strike the final sentence of the subsection, including
28 Subdivisions (1) and (2) of the subsection, and substitute the
29 following:

1 In awarding the grants, the comptroller shall consider the county's
2 ability to otherwise obtain the money necessary to provide adequate
3 ground ambulance services, including considering for the county the
4 average:

5 (1) per capita taxable property value;

6 (2) per capita income; and

7 (3) unemployment rate.

8 (7) In added Subsection (f) (page 2, line 10), between
9 "ambulances" and "as", insert ", including necessary accessories
10 and modifications,".

11 (8) In added Subsection (h) (page 2, lines 19 and 20),
12 immediately following the second sentence of that subsection,
13 insert "Until an ambulance becomes available for purchase, the
14 county may deposit the grant funds in an interest bearing account
15 and may treat any resulting proceeds as grant funds under the grant
16 program."

17 (9) In added Subsection (h)(2)(C) (page 2, line 27),
18 immediately following the underlined semicolon, insert "and".

19 (10) In added Subsection (h)(3)(B) (page 2, line 33), strike
20 "section; and" and substitute "section."

21 (11) Strike added Subsection (h)(4) (page 2, lines 34 and
22 35).

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 29, 2025

TO: Honorable Dustin Burrows, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

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 Passed 2nd House**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB3000, As Passed 2nd House: a negative impact of (\$1,042,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2027.

There would be an additional indeterminate cost to the state dependent on 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	(\$683,000)
2027	(\$359,000)
2028	(\$359,000)
2029	(\$359,000)
2030	(\$359,000)

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	(\$683,000)	3.0
2027	(\$359,000)	3.0
2028	(\$359,000)	3.0
2029	(\$359,000)	3.0
2030	(\$359,000)	3.0

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 written agreement with the county 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. The Comptroller would be required to consider certain economic factors in awarding grants. A county could use a grant award only to purchase ambulances, including accessories and modifications, as provided by Comptroller rule, and before the fifth anniversary of the date the county receives the money. Until an ambulance becomes available, a county could deposit grant funds in an interest bearing account, and treat proceeds as additional grant funds. 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 three additional full-time equivalent (3.0 FTEs) positions to implement the legislation. The additional FTEs include: 2.0 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 three FTEs would be \$359,000 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, 537 State Health Services, Department of

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

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 <i>General Revenue Related Funds</i>
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 <i>General Revenue Fund</i> 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.

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Local Government Impact

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Source Agencies: 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts

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

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 30, 2025

TO: Honorable Gary VanDeaver, Chair, House Committee on Public Health

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 Introduced**

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

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