

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
86R821 JG-D

H.B. 463
By: Springer (Perry)
Health & Human Services
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Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Subscription programs for air ambulance services are particularly important in sparsely populated rural areas with limited medical services. These programs can provide speedy transportation to hospitals for members in isolated areas while limiting costs. Unfortunately, membership in such a program does not guarantee the availability of service when an emergency occurs, which can lead to charges being incurred for the total cost of transport provided by another air ambulance service provider. H.B. 463 seeks to address this issue by establishing requirements for reciprocity agreements between air ambulance companies operating a subscription program.

H.B. 463 amends current law relating to reciprocity agreements between air ambulance companies operating a subscription program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services in SECTION 1 (Section 773.011, Health and Safety Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 773.011, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subsection (d-1) and amending Subsection (e), as follows:

(d-1) Requires an air ambulance company that operates a subscription program under this section (Subscription Programs) to, in accordance with rules of the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (executive commissioner), enter into a reciprocity agreement with each other air ambulance company in this state that operates a subscription program to ensure maximum geographic coverage for patients covered under a subscription program.

(e) Provides that the Insurance Code does not apply to a subscription program established or a reciprocity agreement entered into, rather than a subscription program established, under this section.

SECTION 2. Requires the executive commissioner, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, to adopt rules necessary to implement Section 773.011, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2019.