

AN ACT

relating to reciprocity agreements between certain air ambulance companies operating a subscription program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 773.011, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (e) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules establishing minimum standards for the creation and operation of a subscription program. The rules must:

(1) ensure the protection of public health and safety;

(2) ensure compliance with federal laws and rules related to air ambulance subscription program services; and

(3) establish minimum standards and objectives for the delivery of air ambulance emergency medical services provided in accordance with a reciprocity agreement entered into under Subsection (d-1).

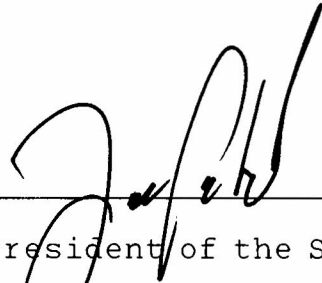
(d-1) To ensure maximum geographic coverage for patients covered under a subscription program, an air ambulance company that operates a subscription program shall, in accordance with executive commissioner rules, enter into a reciprocity agreement with each other air ambulance company that operates a subscription program in the same service delivery area.

(e) The Insurance Code does not apply to a subscription

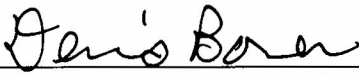
1 program established or a reciprocity agreement entered into under
2 this section.

3 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
4 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
5 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement
6 Section 773.011, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2020.



President of the Senate



Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 463 was passed by the House on April 9, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 7, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 463 on May 24, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 121, Nays 20, 2 present, not voting.



Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 463 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

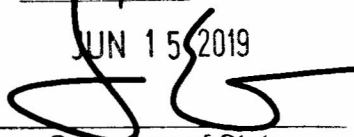


Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4:45 pm O'CLOCK
JUN 15 2019


Secretary of State

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas
41-3638

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Bill No. 463 as passed by the Eighty-Sixth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

House Bill 463, by mandating that air ambulance companies enter into reciprocity agreements, would unnecessarily intrude into the operations of private businesses and could very well reduce the availability of products that protect rural Texans from expensive air ambulance bills. The author was understandably trying to help Texans, but this bill likely runs afoul of federal law and could have unintended consequences. The Legislature and the federal government should find better ways to address the high costs of air ambulance services.

Since the Eighty-Sixth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 15th day of June, 2019.


GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:


JOE ESPARZA
Deputy Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4:45pm O'CLOCK

JUN 15 2019