

SENATE BILL 2708

By Bowling

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 55 and Title 68, relative to establishing a community-based emergency response pilot program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 140, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 8 as a new, appropriately designated part.

SECTION 2. There is established a volunteer ambulance pilot program ("the program"), to be administered by the department of health, in which any municipality may participate and apply for local matching grants from the state to be used in the program.

SECTION 3. The program shall be a community-based emergency response system comprised of volunteers who operate motorcycles equipped with medical service equipment used by ambulances, including a basic emergency medical service medical kit containing supplies such as an oxygen canister, soft supplies, tourniquets, and a blood sugar monitor; and an automated external defibrillator. Each motorcycle used in the program shall be capable of using technology that allows an emergency response dispatcher to direct the closest possible volunteer on a motorcycle to the scene of an accident or other emergency.

SECTION 4. In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this part, a municipality shall establish a program that ensures that a volunteer who operates a motorcycle shall complete any requirements and training as may be required by the department, including, at a minimum, completion of an eighty-four-hour emergency medical responder training course, which includes not less than sixty (60) hours of classroom emergency medical service training, or of similar training that is certified as equivalent or greater; ambulance training, as determined necessary;

and successful passage of a full background history check, medical screening, and interview process.

SECTION 5. The state is authorized to match funds raised locally by such participating municipalities for the purposes of the program, including costs of administration, planning, training, equipment, and program development and administration.

SECTION 6. A municipality seeking a grant under this part shall submit an application to the commissioner at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the commissioner may require.

SECTION 7. Not later than one (1) year after the effective date of this act, the department shall submit to the health and welfare committee of the senate and the health committee of the house of representatives its findings or recommendations regarding the program and its effectiveness.

SECTION 8. The department is authorized to promulgate rules as may be necessary for implementation of this part, in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.