

AN ACT

relating to public health disaster and public health emergency preparedness and response, including the operation of the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 81.027 to read as follows:

Sec. 81.027. TRAUMA SERVICE AREA REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING. (a) Each trauma service area regional advisory council shall collect from each hospital located in the regional advisory council's trauma service area the de-identified health care data, including demographic data, necessary for this state and the area to effectively plan for and respond to public health disasters and communicable or infectious disease emergencies in this state. The executive commissioner by rule shall prescribe the data each council must collect under this subsection.

(b) A trauma service area regional advisory council shall:

(1) provide the data collected under Subsection (a) to the department; and

(2) make the data publicly available by:

(A) posting the data on the regional advisory council's Internet website; or

(B) if the regional advisory council does not

1 maintain an Internet website, providing the data in writing on
2 request.

3 (c) Information collected or maintained under this section
4 that identifies a patient is confidential and exempt from
5 disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

6 SECTION 2. Section 81.404(a), Health and Safety Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The governor may appoint members of the task force as
9 necessary, including members from relevant state agencies, members
10 with expertise in infectious diseases and other issues involved in
11 the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and members
12 from institutions of higher education in this state. The governor
13 shall appoint to the task force:

14 (1) at least one member who is a county judge of a
15 county with a population of less than 100,000;

16 (2) at least one member who is a county judge of a
17 county with a population of 100,000 or more;

18 (3) at least one member who is a representative of a
19 local health authority serving a rural area;

20 (4) at least one member who is a representative of a
21 local health authority serving an urban area;

22 (5) at least one member who is a licensed nurse; ~~and~~

23 (6) at least one member who is emergency medical
24 services personnel, as defined by Section 773.003; and

25 (7) at least one member who is an epidemiologist.

26 SECTION 3. Section 81.406(a), Health and Safety Code, is
27 amended to read as follows:

1 (a) The task force shall meet:

2 (1) at least once each year at a location determined by
3 the task force director; and

4 (2) at other times and locations as determined by the
5 task force director [~~of the task force~~].

6 SECTION 4. Not later than January 1, 2022, the governor
7 shall appoint the member of the Task Force on Infectious Disease
8 Preparedness and Response as required by Section 81.404(a)(7),
9 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

10 SECTION 5. The Department of State Health Services or a
11 trauma service area regional advisory council is required to
12 implement Section 81.027, Health and Safety Code, as added by this
13 Act, only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for
14 that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money
15 specifically for that purpose, the department or a trauma service
16 area regional advisory council may, but is not required to,
17 implement Section 81.027 using other appropriations available for
18 that purpose.

19 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 984 passed the Senate on April 29, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 29, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 984 passed the House, with amendment, on May 26, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 3, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor