

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1397

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to establishing a coordinated system for the dispatch,  
3 triage, transport, and transfer of patients in certain trauma  
4 service area regional advisory councils; providing rulemaking  
5 authority.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 773, Health and Safety  
8 Code, is amended by adding Section 773.1141 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 773.1141. INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES RELATED TO CERTAIN  
10 PATIENT TRANSFERS AND RELATED SERVICES. (a) This section applies  
11 only to a trauma service area regional advisory council that  
12 includes:

13 (1) at least one county located on the international  
14 border of this state; and

15 (2) at least one county adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico.

16 (b) For each trauma service area regional advisory council to  
17 which this section applies, the department, by January 1, 2022, by  
18 rule shall:

19 (1) require the council to create an advisory committee  
20 composed of equally represented designated trauma hospital members  
21 located within the geographic boundaries of the council to:

22 (A) develop guidelines for patient transfers; and

23 (B) periodically review patient transfers to  
24 ensure compliance with applicable guidelines;

1           (2) for the purpose of ensuring that patients located  
2 in the council's geographic boundaries receive health care at the  
3 closest and most appropriate health care facility, require the  
4 council to implement a centralized system to assist the council in  
5 the dispatch, triage, transport, and transfer of patients; and

6           (3) require each hospital and emergency services  
7 provider operating within the geographic boundaries of the council  
8 to collect and report to the council data on patients transferred  
9 outside the geographic boundaries of the council.

10           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.