

AN ACT

relating to regional protocols and processes for patient transfers and related services within the geographic area served by certain trauma service area regional advisory councils.

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

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

Sec. 773.1141. INFORMATION, GUIDELINES, AND PROTOCOLS RELATED TO CERTAIN PATIENT TRANSFERS AND RELATED SERVICES. (a)

This section applies only to a trauma service area regional advisory council serving a geographic area that includes:

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

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

(b) For each trauma service area regional advisory council to which this section applies, the executive commissioner by rule shall:

(1) require the council to create an advisory committee composed of equally represented designated trauma hospital system members located within the geographic boundaries of the council or require the council to direct an existing advisory committee of the council established for a purpose similar to that described by this subsection to:

(A) develop guidelines for patient transfers; and

1 (B) periodically review patient transfers to
2 ensure compliance with applicable guidelines;

3 (2) for the purpose of ensuring that patients located
4 in the council's geographic boundaries receive health care at the
5 health care facility closest to and most appropriate for the
6 patients, require the council to develop regional protocols and
7 processes to assist the council in managing the dispatch, triage,
8 transport, and transfer of patients; and

9 (3) require each hospital and emergency medical
10 services provider operating within the council's geographic
11 boundaries to collect and report to the council data on patients
12 transferred outside the council's geographic boundaries.

13 SECTION 2. Not later than April 1, 2022, the executive
14 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
15 adopt the rules required by Section 773.1141, Health and Safety
16 Code, as added by this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1397 passed the Senate on April 19, 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. 1397 passed the House, with amendment, on May 26, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 113, Nays 34, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor