

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 1780

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 75 Education Code is amended by adding:

SUBCHAPTER D. TEXAS EPIDEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE.

Sec. 75.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "public health reserve network" means a network of public health professionals and community health workers, state and local public health agencies, healthcare organizations, university partners throughout Texas, and other relevant organizations and people.

(2) "Institute" means the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Sec. 75.301. ESTABLISHMENT. This subchapter establishes the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Sec. 75.302. ROLE AND SCOPE. (a) The Institute shall establish and maintain a public health reserve network to protect public health and to support pandemic and epidemic disaster preparedness and response components of the state emergency management plan required by Section 418.042.

1           (b) The Department of State Health Services shall provide the  
2 Institute with access to relevant and timely data to perform its  
3 duties.

4           SECTION 2. Section 418.042, Government Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6           (16) provisions for quickly replenishing the food supplies of  
7 area food banks or food pantries following a disaster; ~~and~~

8           (17) provisions for protecting public health; and

9           (18) other necessary matter relating to disasters.

10          SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.