

By: Toth

H.B. No. 551

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on the prevalence of the use of psychoactive or  
psychotropic medication by persons who have committed suicide.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:

(1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services  
Commission.

(2) "Psychoactive medication" has the meaning  
assigned by Section 242.505, Health and Safety Code.

(3) "Psychotropic medication" has the meaning  
assigned by Section 266.001, Family Code.

(b) The commission shall conduct a study evaluating the  
prevalence of the use of psychoactive or psychotropic medication by  
persons who are reported to have committed suicide. The study must  
evaluate:

(1) for persons for whom a report described by  
Subsection (c) indicated the use of psychoactive or psychotropic  
medication:

(A) the period of time the person was taking  
psychoactive or psychotropic medication;

(B) the medication the person was taking;

(C) whether there is evidence of the person  
experiencing withdrawal symptoms; and

(D) if applicable, the period of time the person

1 was experiencing withdrawal symptoms; and

2 (2) for persons for whom a report described by  
3 Subsection (c) did not indicate the use of psychoactive or  
4 psychotropic medication:

5 (A) whether there is evidence of the person  
6 having recently discontinued using psychoactive or psychotropic  
7 medication; and

8 (B) whether there is evidence of the person  
9 experiencing withdrawal symptoms.

10 (c) In conducting the study, the commission shall use  
11 autopsy reports, toxicology reports, police reports, and other  
12 information related to persons who are reported to have committed  
13 suicide that are:

14 (1) collected between January 1, 2016, to December 31,  
15 2022; and

16 (2) concerning persons who resided in counties with a  
17 population of 450,000 or more.

18 (d) Not later than October 1, 2023, the commission shall  
19 prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and  
20 the speaker of the house of representatives a written report  
21 containing the results of the study.

22 (e) The study required by this Act is a public record under  
23 Chapter 552, Government Code.

24 (f) The commission shall comply with all applicable state  
25 and federal laws regarding personally identifiable information in  
26 conducting the study.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.