

AN ACT

relating to sickle cell disease health care improvement and the sickle cell task force.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 533, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 533.0091 to read as follows:

Sec. 533.0091. SICKLE CELL DISEASE TREATMENT. To the extent possible, the commission shall:

(1) in collaboration with the sickle cell task force established under Chapter 52, Health and Safety Code:

(A) support initiatives to assist managed care plans in promoting timely, evidence-informed health care services to plan enrollees diagnosed with sickle cell disease to ensure the services reflect national clinical practice guidelines and protocols for sickle cell disease treatment and meet medical necessity criteria; and

(B) address sickle cell disease education for Medicaid providers, including emergency department providers, by collaborating with medical specialty organizations in this state, state agencies, and health-related institutions to promote existing or new continuing education courses or facilitate development of any necessary new courses to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and management of sickle cell disease and the personal treatment of patients with sickle cell disease; and

1           (2) use the commission's existing data to identify  
2 opportunities for improving health outcomes of recipients  
3 diagnosed with sickle cell disease by:

4           (A) reducing hospital admissions and  
5 readmissions; and

6           (B) connecting those recipients to a sickle cell  
7 disease health home or sickle cell disease expert.

8           SECTION 2. Sections 52.0003 and 52.0007, Health and Safety  
9 Code, are amended to read as follows:

10           Sec. 52.0003. COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE. The task force is  
11 composed of the following members appointed by the executive  
12 commissioner:

13           (1) two members from community-based organizations  
14 with experience addressing the needs of individuals with sickle  
15 cell disease;

16           (2) two physicians specializing in hematology;

17           (3) three [~~two~~] members of the public, one of whom has  
18 sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait and two [~~each~~] of whom  
19 either have [~~has~~] sickle cell disease or are [~~is~~] a parent of a  
20 person with sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait; [~~and~~]

21           (4) one representative of a health-related  
22 institution;

23           (5) one representative of the Texas Education Agency;

24           (6) one representative of the commission;

25           (7) one physician with experience addressing the needs  
26 of individuals with sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait;

27           (8) one researcher from a public health-related or

1 academic institution with experience addressing sickle cell  
2 disease and sickle cell trait; and

3 (9) one health care professional with experience  
4 addressing the needs of individuals with sickle cell disease or  
5 sickle cell trait.

6 Sec. 52.0007. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) Not later than December 1  
7 of each year, the task force shall prepare and submit to the  
8 governor and the legislature an annual written report that  
9 summarizes the task force's work and includes any recommended  
10 actions or policy changes endorsed by the task force.

11 (b) The task force shall, in collaboration with the  
12 commission, include in the task force's annual report  
13 recommendations for improving sickle cell disease education for  
14 health care providers.

15 SECTION 3. Chapter 52, Health and Safety Code, is amended by  
16 adding Section 52.0008 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 52.0008. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and  
18 this chapter expires August 31, 2035.

19 SECTION 4. Subtitle B, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is  
20 amended by adding Chapter 52A to read as follows:

21 CHAPTER 52A. SICKLE CELL DISEASE CARE EDUCATION AND TREATMENT

22 Sec. 52A.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "sickle cell  
23 task force" means the sickle cell task force established under  
24 Chapter 52.

25 Sec. 52A.002. EMERGENCY AND PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE GRADUATE  
26 MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM CURRICULUM. (a) In this section,  
27 "graduate medical education program" and "medical school" have the

1 meanings assigned by Section 58A.001, Education Code.

2 (b) A medical school or graduate medical education program  
3 in this state that offers an emergency medicine, family medicine,  
4 internal medicine, obstetrics, or pediatrics residency program  
5 shall examine and, to the extent possible, incorporate in the  
6 curriculum requirements for the program education focused on sickle  
7 cell disease and sickle cell trait. The medical school or graduate  
8 medical education program may enter into agreements as necessary  
9 for the purposes of this section.

10 Sec. 52A.003. INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT  
11 PERSONNEL. (a) To the extent possible, the Texas Education Agency  
12 in collaboration with sickle cell disease community-based  
13 organizations shall provide information on sickle cell disease and  
14 sickle cell trait to public school districts and district staff,  
15 including school nurses, teachers, and coaches.

16 (b) The commission in collaboration with the sickle cell  
17 task force shall explore methods for improving sickle cell disease  
18 education and awareness within the public school system and provide  
19 recommendations to the Texas Education Agency on the improvement  
20 methods.

21 SECTION 5. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
22 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
23 Services Commission shall appoint the new members of the sickle  
24 cell task force as required by Section 52.0003, Health and Safety  
25 Code, as amended by this Act.

26 SECTION 6. Section 52A.002, Health and Safety Code, as  
27 added by this Act, applies to residents entering an emergency

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1 medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics, or  
2 pediatrics residency program at a medical school or graduate  
3 medical education program in this state on or after January 1, 2024.

4 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1488 was passed by the House on April 11, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 107, Nays 33, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1488 was passed by the Senate on May 17, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 4.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor