

By: Campos

H.B. No. 1522

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the compilation and publication of information on  
3 confirmed or probable cases of reportable diseases.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 81.047, Health and Safety Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 81.047. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS; COMPILATION AND  
8 PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN REPORT INFORMATION. (a) Subject to the  
9 confidentiality requirements of this chapter, the department shall  
10 require epidemiological reports of disease outbreaks and of  
11 individual cases of disease suspected or known to be of importance  
12 to the public health. The department shall evaluate the reports to  
13 determine the trends involved and the nature and magnitude of the  
14 hazards.

15 (b) Based on the information included in the  
16 epidemiological reports required by Subsection (a), the department  
17 shall compile, aggregate, and publish on the department's Internet  
18 website information on the number of confirmed or probable cases of  
19 each reportable disease included in the reports. The case  
20 information must be:

21 (1) aggregated based on:

22 (A) the reportable disease;

23 (B) the date each case of a reportable disease is  
24 reported to the department; and

1           (C) the probable source of infection for each  
2 case of a reportable disease; and

3           (2) updated regularly as determined by the  
4 commissioner.

5           (c) During a public health disaster or public health  
6 emergency and based on the information included in the  
7 epidemiological reports required by Subsection (a) for a reportable  
8 disease related to the disaster or emergency, the department shall  
9 compile, aggregate, and publish on the department's Internet  
10 website information on the number of confirmed or probable cases of  
11 the disease, including the number of deaths caused by or suspected  
12 of being caused by the disease. The case information must be:

13           (1) aggregated based on:

14           (A) the date each case of the disease is reported  
15 to the department;

16           (B) the probable source of infection for each  
17 case of the disease; and

18           (C) the date of each death and total number of  
19 deaths caused by or suspected of being caused by the disease; and

20           (2) updated daily.

21           (d) In publishing information required under this section,  
22 the department may not disclose a patient's personally identifiable  
23 information or information that is confidential under state or  
24 federal law.

25           SECTION 2. Section 81.047, Health and Safety Code, as  
26 amended by this Act, applies only to case information submitted on  
27 or after the effective date of this Act.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.