

By: Ortega

H.B. No. 2151

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a border public health
3 multidisciplinary response team within the office of border public
4 health.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 12.071, Health and Safety Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 12.071. OFFICE OF BORDER PUBLIC HEALTH; BORDER PUBLIC
9 HEALTH MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESPONSE TEAMS. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Office" means the office of border public health
11 established under Subsection (b).

12 (2) "Response team" means the border public health
13 multidisciplinary response team established under Subsection (c).

14 (b) The department shall establish and maintain an office in
15 the department to coordinate and promote health and environmental
16 issues between this state and Mexico.

17 (c) The department shall establish within the office a
18 border public health multidisciplinary response team to:

19 (1) assist local health departments in responding to
20 public health issues at the border related to infectious diseases;
21 and

22 (2) address language, cultural, and environmental
23 barriers associated with treating and preventing the spread of
24 infectious diseases at the border.

1 (d) The office shall appoint members to the response team.
2 Each member of the response team must be bilingual in English and
3 Spanish and the response team must include:

4 (1) an epidemiologist;

5 (2) a sanitarian, as defined by Section 1953.001,
6 Occupations Code;

7 (3) a nurse;

8 (4) an individual who conducts contact tracing to
9 identify individuals who may have been exposed to an infectious
10 disease for the purpose of containing the spread of the disease; and

11 (5) any other person the office considers appropriate.

12 (e) The office shall ensure the response team is provided
13 with adequate training, equipment, and support staff to enable the
14 team to fulfill the duties assigned under this section and
15 strengthen border health response efforts.

16 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
17 of this Act:

18 (1) the Department of State Health Services shall
19 establish the border public health multidisciplinary response team
20 as required by Section 12.071, Health and Safety Code, as amended by
21 this Act; and

22 (2) the Office of Border Public Health shall appoint
23 the members of the border public health multidisciplinary response
24 team as required by Section 12.071, Health and Safety Code, as
25 amended by this Act.

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