

By: King of Hemphill

H.B. No. 4599

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the transfer of duties of the State Office of Rural
3 Health from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of
4 State Health Services.

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

6 SECTION 1. On September 1, 2023:

7 (1) the administration of the State Office of the
8 Rural Health is transferred from the Office of Rural Affairs under
9 the Texas Department of Agriculture to the Department of State
10 Health Services;

11 (2) all rules, policies, procedures, and decisions of
12 the Office of Rural Affairs or the Department of Agriculture
13 relating to the administration of the State Office of Rural Health
14 are continued in effect as rules, policies, procedures, and
15 decisions of the office until superseded by a rule or other
16 appropriate action by Department of State Health Services; and

17 (3) a reference in law or administrative rule to the
18 Department of Agriculture or State Office of Rural Affairs relating
19 to the administration of the State Office of Rural Affairs means
20 Department of State Health Services.

21 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 12, Health and Safety
22 Code, is amended by adding Section 12.021 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 12.021. STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH. The department
24 shall ensure that the office qualifies as the state's office of

1 rural health for the purpose of receiving grants from the Office of
2 Rural Health Policy of the United States Department of Health and
3 Human Services under 42 U.S.C. Section 254r.

4 SECTION 3. Subdivision 487.051(9), Government Code, is
5 repealed.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.