

By: Miles

S.B. No. 180

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and
3 Disparities renamed as the office for health equity and the duties
4 of that office.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter [107A](#), Health and Safety Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 CHAPTER 107A. OFFICE FOR HEALTH EQUITY [~~CENTER FOR ELIMINATION OF~~
9 ~~DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITIES~~]

10 Sec. 107A.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

11 (1) "Office" means the office for health equity
12 established under this chapter.

13 (2) "Provider" has the meaning assigned by Section
14 [531.1011](#), Government Code.

15 Sec. 107A.002. OFFICE FOR HEALTH EQUITY [~~CENTER FOR~~
16 ~~ELIMINATION OF DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITIES~~]. (a) The
17 executive commissioner shall maintain an office [~~a center~~] for
18 health equity within [~~elimination of disproportionality and~~
19 ~~disparities in~~] the commission to:

20 (1) assume a leadership role in working or contracting
21 with state and federal agencies, universities, private interest
22 groups, communities, foundations, and offices of minority health to
23 develop and implement health initiatives to create health equity
24 and decrease or eliminate health and health access disparities

1 among women and racial, multicultural, disadvantaged, ethnic, and
2 regional populations, and across age brackets and linguistic groups
3 in this state [~~, including appropriate language services~~]; and

4 (2) coordinate with state and federal agencies,
5 universities, private interest groups, communities, foundations,
6 and offices that provide health care services to women and specific
7 minority and age groups in this state to maximize use of existing
8 resources without duplicating existing efforts.

9 (b) The health initiatives developed under Subsection (a)
10 must include initiatives to increase access to appropriate language
11 services in health care settings.

12 Sec. 107A.003 [~~107A.002~~]. POWERS OF OFFICE [~~CENTER~~]. The
13 office [~~center~~] may:

14 (1) provide a central information and referral source,
15 including a clearinghouse for health disparities information, and
16 serve as the primary state resource in coordinating, planning,
17 implementing, and advocating access to health care services to
18 eliminate health disparities in this state;

19 (2) coordinate conferences and other training
20 opportunities to increase skills among state agencies and
21 government staff in management and in the appreciation of cultural
22 diversity;

23 (3) pursue and administer grant funds for innovative
24 projects for universities, communities, groups, and individuals;

25 (4) provide recommendations and training in improving
26 minority recruitment in state agencies;

27 (5) publicize, implement, and disseminate information

1 and evidence-based strategies to promote health equity and
2 eliminate [~~regarding~~] health disparities and minority health
3 issues through the use of the media;

4 (6) network with existing minority organizations,
5 community-based health groups, faith-based organizations, and
6 statewide health coalitions;

7 (7) solicit, receive, and spend grants, gifts, and
8 donations from public and private sources; [~~and~~]

9 (8) contract with public and private entities in the
10 performance of its responsibilities;

11 (9) coordinate with local health authorities to
12 investigate and report on issues related to health and health
13 access disparities among women and racial, multicultural, ethnic,
14 disadvantaged, and regional populations, and across age brackets
15 and linguistic groups in this state;

16 (10) publish on the office's publicly accessible
17 Internet website the results of an investigation under Subdivision
18 (9) and any data collected during the investigation, omitting any
19 data that includes an individual's personally identifying
20 information;

21 (11) monitor existing and emerging trends in
22 behavioral health, morbidity, and mortality rates among women and
23 racial, multicultural, ethnic, disadvantaged, and regional
24 populations, and across age brackets and linguistic groups in this
25 state;

26 (12) develop and implement short-term and long-term
27 strategies to promote health equity and eliminate health and health

1 access disparities among women and racial, multicultural, ethnic,
2 disadvantaged, and regional populations, and across age brackets
3 and linguistic groups in this state;

4 (13) monitor the progress of the commission and of the
5 providers with whom the commission contracts in promoting health
6 equity and in eliminating health and health access disparities;

7 (14) advise and assist the commission on the
8 implementation of any programs or funding authorized by the
9 legislature that addresses health and health access disparities;

10 (15) examine the manner in which disparities in
11 education, criminal justice, housing, economic opportunity,
12 environment, and other social determinants contribute to health and
13 health access disparities;

14 (16) examine the effect of health and health access
15 disparities on educational, housing, and economic opportunity; and

16 (17) advise the commission on procuring contracts with
17 providers that are promoting health equity and working to eliminate
18 health and health access disparities among women and racial,
19 multicultural, ethnic, disadvantaged, and regional populations,
20 and across age brackets and linguistic groups in this state.

21 Sec. 107A.004 [~~107A.003~~]. FUNDING. The commission may
22 distribute to the office to be used in accordance with this chapter:

23 (1) [~~center~~] unobligated and unexpended
24 appropriations;

25 (2) money appropriated by the legislature; and

26 (3) gifts, donations, or grants, including grants from
27 the federal government [~~to be used to carry out its powers~~].

1 Sec. 107A.005. PROVIDER CONTRACTS. (a) The commission
2 shall collaborate with the office in procuring contracts and
3 entering into provider agreements with providers that promote
4 health equity and eliminate health and health access disparities
5 among women and racial, multicultural, ethnic, disadvantaged, and
6 regional populations, and across age brackets and linguistic groups
7 in this state.

8 (b) The office shall assist providers under a contract or
9 provider agreement with the commission in implementing programs and
10 strategies that promote health equity and eliminate health and
11 health access disparities among women and racial, multicultural,
12 ethnic, disadvantaged, and regional populations, and across age
13 brackets and linguistic groups in this state.

14 Sec. 107A.006. CROSS-AGENCY COLLABORATION. The office may
15 collaborate with other state agencies to advise and assist in
16 implementing programs and strategies that seek to eliminate social
17 determinants that contribute to health and health access
18 disparities among women and racial, multicultural, ethnic,
19 disadvantaged, and regional populations, and across age brackets
20 and linguistic groups in this state.

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