

By: Paxton
(Smith)

S.B. No. 415

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing education requirements for physicians regarding the identification and assistance of trafficked persons.

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

SECTION 1. Section 156.060, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 156.060. CONTINUING EDUCATION REGARDING THE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS [~~IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION~~]. (a) This section applies only to a physician who designates a direct patient care practice on an application for renewal of a registration permit.

(b) A physician licensed under this subtitle who submits an application for renewal of a registration permit [~~and who designates a direct patient care practice~~] must complete at least one hour of continuing medical education under this section regarding the identification and assistance of trafficked persons:

(1) in the first renewal period following the issuance of the physician's initial registration permit under this chapter;
and

(2) if the board approves more than one course under Subsection (d), at least once in every third renewal period following the renewal period described by Subdivision (1) [~~as part of the hours of continuing medical education required for compliance with Section 156.051(a)(2), a human trafficking~~

1 ~~prevention course approved by the executive commissioner of the~~
2 ~~Health and Human Services Commission under Section 116.002~~].

3 (c) [~~(b)~~] The hours [~~board shall designate the human~~
4 ~~trafficking prevention course~~] required by Subsection (b):

5 (1) must be designated by the board [~~(a)~~] as [~~a~~]
6 medical ethics or professional responsibility education; and

7 (2) may be counted toward the hours of [~~course for~~
8 ~~purposes of complying with~~] continuing medical education required
9 by Section 156.051(a)(2).

10 (d) [~~(c)~~] The board shall adopt rules to implement this
11 section, including rules to establish the content of and approval
12 requirements for continuing medical education relating to the
13 identification and assistance of trafficked persons. In adopting
14 rules, the board shall seek input from affected parties and review
15 relevant courses, including courses that have been approved in
16 other states. Rules adopted under this section must provide for the
17 identification and approval of accredited continuing medical
18 education courses that represent an appropriate spectrum of
19 relevant information relating to the identification and assistance
20 of trafficked persons.

21 (e) A physician may satisfy the requirement of Subsection
22 (b)(1) by completing at least one hour of a training course approved
23 by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services
24 Commission under Section 116.002. This subsection expires
25 September 1, 2025.

26 (f) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a physician who on
27 September 1, 2023, holds a license to practice medicine under this

1 subtitle shall complete at least one hour of continuing medical
2 education under this section regarding the identification and
3 assistance of trafficked persons. This subsection expires January
4 1, 2024.

5 SECTION 2. Section 156.060, Occupations Code, as amended by
6 this Act, applies only to an application for renewal of a
7 registration permit to practice medicine submitted on or after the
8 effective date of this Act. A renewal application submitted before
9 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on
10 the date the application was submitted, and the former law is
11 continued in effect for that purpose.

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