

By: Thompson

H.B. No. 754

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to human trafficking prevention, including training for medical assistants, disclosure of human trafficking information by certain health care facilities, and protection for facility employees who report human trafficking.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle G, Title 4, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 328 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 328. HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION IN CERTAIN FACILITIES

Sec. 328.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Facility" has the meaning assigned by Section 31.002.

(2) "Medical assistant" has the meaning assigned by Section 763.001.

Sec. 328.002. HUMAN TRAFFICKING SIGNS REQUIRED. (a) A facility shall display a sign, at least 11 inches by 17 inches in size, written in at least a 16-point font and in the form prescribed by the attorney general, that includes:

(1) the following statements:

(A) "All health care practitioners and medical assistants are required to receive human trafficking prevention training."; and

(B) "An employee may not be disciplined, retaliated against, or otherwise discriminated against for

1 reporting in good faith a suspected act of human trafficking.";

2 (2) information on recognizing and reporting human  
3 trafficking and a list of human trafficking indicators;

4 (3) a phone number the attorney general designates for  
5 reporting a suspected act of human trafficking or a violation of  
6 this chapter; and

7 (4) contact information for reporting suspicious  
8 activity to the Department of Public Safety.

9 (b) The sign described by Subsection (a) must be posted:

10 (1) in a location easily visible to all facility  
11 employees; and

12 (2) separately in English, Spanish, and any other  
13 primary language spoken by 10 percent or more of the facility's  
14 employees.

15 Sec. 328.003. DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION PROHIBITED. A  
16 facility may not discipline, retaliate against, or otherwise  
17 discriminate against a facility employee who in good faith reports  
18 a suspected act of human trafficking to the facility, a law  
19 enforcement agency, the National Human Trafficking Resource  
20 Center, the attorney general, or another appropriate authority.

21 SECTION 2. Subtitle A, Title 9, Health and Safety Code, is  
22 amended by adding Chapter 763 to read as follows:

23 CHAPTER 763. HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TRAINING

24 SUBCHAPTER A. TRAINING FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

25 Sec. 763.001. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

26 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services  
27 Commission.

1           (2) "Executive commissioner" means the executive  
2 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

3           (3) "Human trafficking" means conduct that  
4 constitutes an offense under Section 20A.02, Penal Code.

5           (4) "Medical assistant" means an individual who, under  
6 the supervision of a physician, assists with patient care  
7 management, executes administrative duties, and performs clinical  
8 procedures, including:

9                   (A) conducting aseptic procedures;

10                   (B) obtaining vital signs;

11                   (C) preparing patients for the physician's care;

12                   (D) performing venipunctures and non-intravenous  
13 injections;

14                   (E) observing and reporting patients' symptoms;

15                   (F) administering basic first aid;

16                   (G) assisting with patient examinations or  
17 treatments;

18                   (H) operating office medical equipment;

19                   (I) collecting routine laboratory specimens, as  
20 directed by the physician;

21                   (J) administering medication, as directed by the  
22 physician;

23                   (K) performing basic laboratory procedures; and

24                   (L) performing dialysis procedures, including  
25 home dialysis.

26           Sec. 763.002. REQUIRED HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING. A  
27 medical assistant, within the time prescribed by commission rule,

1 shall successfully complete a training course approved by the  
2 executive commissioner on identifying, assisting, and reporting  
3 victims of human trafficking.

4 Sec. 763.003. TRAINING COURSE APPROVAL. (a) The executive  
5 commissioner shall:

6 (1) approve training courses on human trafficking  
7 prevention, including at least one course available without charge;  
8 and

9 (2) post a list of the approved training courses on the  
10 commission's Internet website.

11 (b) The executive commissioner shall update the list of  
12 approved training courses described by Subsection (a) as necessary  
13 and consider for approval training courses conducted by health care  
14 facilities.

15 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
16 of this Act, the attorney general shall design the sign required by  
17 Section 328.002, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

18 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
19 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
20 Services Commission shall approve and post on the commission's  
21 Internet website the list of approved human trafficking prevention  
22 training courses and adopt rules necessary to implement Subchapter  
23 A, Chapter 763, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

24 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.