

By: Miles

S.B. No. 274

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 107A, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

(2) "Provider" has the meaning assigned by Section 544.0001, Government Code.

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

(1) assume a leadership role in working or contracting with state and federal agencies, universities, private interest groups, communities, foundations, and offices of minority health to develop and implement health initiatives to promote health equity 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 promote health equity and eliminate health disparities in this
19 state;

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

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

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

1 (5) publicize, implement, and disseminate information
2 and evidence-based strategies to promote health equity and
3 eliminate [~~regarding~~] health disparities [~~and minority health~~
4 ~~issues~~] through the use of the media;

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

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

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

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

17 (10) publish on the office's publicly accessible
18 Internet website the results of an investigation under Subdivision
19 (9) and any data collected during the investigation, omitting any
20 personally identifying 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
5 providers in promoting health equity and in eliminating health and
6 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 who 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 the legislature appropriates; 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 who promote health
4 equity and eliminate health and health access disparities among
5 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 contributing to health and health access disparities
18 among women and racial, multicultural, ethnic, disadvantaged, and
19 regional populations, and across age brackets and linguistic groups
20 in this state.

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.