

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 1694

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to required training in gerontology for certain health care practitioners.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 3, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 107 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 107. GERONTOLOGY TRAINING

Sec. 107.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "health care practitioner" means an individual who is licensed in this state to provide health care services. The term includes a physician, a registered nurse, a psychologist, a licensed professional counselor, and any other license holder under this code who, in providing health care services, provides therapy or counseling services.

Sec. 107.002. REQUIRED TRAINING IN GERONTOLOGY; RULES; NOTICE. (a) Each state regulatory agency that licenses health care practitioners who, in the normal course of their professional practice, provide health care services to elderly persons shall require its license holders to complete training in gerontology as a condition for obtaining or renewing a license.

(b) A state regulatory agency affected by this section shall:

(1) adopt rules regarding the required gerontology training; and

1 (2) notify its license holders of the requirements
2 adopted under this chapter.

3 Sec. 107.003. CONTINUING EDUCATION. A health care
4 practitioner may satisfy the requirement imposed under Section
5 107.002 through participation in continuing education that
6 includes training in gerontology.

7 Sec. 107.004. GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION. Failure by
8 a health care practitioner to comply with the requirements adopted
9 by the practitioner's state regulatory agency constitutes grounds
10 for disciplinary action by the agency against the practitioner in
11 the manner provided under the chapter under which the practitioner
12 is licensed.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
14 applies only to a license that is issued or renewed on or after
15 January 1, 2004. A license that is issued or renewed before
16 January 1, 2004, is governed by the law in effect on the date the
17 license was issued or renewed, and the former law in continued in
18 effect for that purpose.