

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 2448

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2448:

By: Griggs

C.S.H.B. No. 2448

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Border Health and Education Partnership.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 112 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 112. BORDER HEALTH AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Sec. 112.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee for the partnership established under Section 112.004.

(2) "Partnership" means the Border Health and Education Partnership.

(3) "Primary health care services" has the meaning assigned by Section 31.002.

(4) "Texas-Mexico border region" has the meaning assigned by Section 2056.002, Government Code.

Sec. 112.002. MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA. The department shall determine which areas of the Texas-Mexico border region are medically underserved areas for purposes of this chapter based on the medical needs of an area's residents and the access that residents of the area have to medical care and public health services.

Sec. 112.003. CREATION AND PURPOSE OF BORDER HEALTH AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP. (a) The department shall establish the

1 Border Health and Education Partnership.

2 (b) The purpose of the partnership is to provide students of
3 health professions, health educators, public health practitioners,
4 and active and retired licensed or certified health professionals
5 the opportunity to participate in public service programs that
6 enhance access to primary health care services to individuals or
7 families in the Texas-Mexico border region.

8 Sec. 112.004. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) An advisory
9 committee is established to consider and make recommendations to
10 the department on all matters relating to the partnership.

11 (b) The advisory committee consists of:

12 (1) the commissioner or the commissioner's
13 representative;

14 (2) a person appointed by the governor to serve as
15 chair of the committee;

16 (3) one representative other than a health educator
17 from the institutions of higher education that have degree programs
18 for the health professions, appointed by the commissioner of higher
19 education;

20 (4) one physician practicing in a medically
21 underserved area in the Texas-Mexico border region, appointed by
22 the commissioner;

23 (5) one registered nurse practicing in a medically
24 underserved area in the Texas-Mexico border region, appointed by
25 the commissioner;

26 (6) one health educator from an institution of higher
27 education that has degree programs for the health professions,

1 appointed by the commissioner of higher education;

2 (7) one public representative who resides in a
3 medically underserved area in the Texas-Mexico border region,
4 appointed by the governor;

5 (8) one state representative appointed by the speaker
6 of the house of representatives; and

7 (9) one state senator appointed by the lieutenant
8 governor.

9 (c) The advisory committee shall develop and recommend to
10 the department for implementation a program to coordinate public
11 and private resources that promote community service by linking
12 health professionals and supervised students with existing health
13 education and primary health care services.

14 Sec. 112.005. STUDIES AND PILOT PROJECTS. (a) The advisory
15 committee shall develop and recommend to the department for
16 implementation studies and pilot projects designed to coordinate
17 and use existing public and private resources to provide improved
18 access to primary health care services for populations in the
19 Texas-Mexico border region. The studies and pilot projects shall
20 examine ways to encourage schools and other education programs that
21 train public health professionals and health professionals to
22 incorporate public service requirements or electives into the
23 curriculum and to promote incentives for participation in the
24 partnership. Under the supervision of appropriate licensed or
25 certified personnel, and in cooperation with appropriate
26 educational authorities, students shall be encouraged to
27 participate in pilot projects.

1 (b) Opportunities for participation in pilot projects
2 should be expanded for:

3 (1) students enrolled in secondary or postsecondary
4 schools and educational programs; and

5 (2) current and retired licensed health care
6 providers, including military and military reserve medical
7 personnel.

8 Sec. 112.006. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The department,
9 after considering recommendations of the advisory committee,
10 shall:

11 (1) conduct studies and pilot projects as described by
12 Section 112.005;

13 (2) apply for grants from private sources, existing
14 state programs, and the federal government to implement studies and
15 pilot projects under Section 112.005;

16 (3) enter into agreements with private, state, and
17 federal entities as appropriate to accomplish the purposes of the
18 partnership;

19 (4) study the feasibility of using the services of
20 retired health care providers and other licensed and certified
21 health care providers, including conducting a study that addresses
22 methods of providing liability coverage for retired licensed health
23 care providers;

24 (5) study the feasibility of providing continuing
25 education credit for licensed and certified health care
26 practitioners participating in pilot projects;

27 (6) study the feasibility of establishing a Texas

1 nonprofit corporation to operate the partnership in the event the
2 department is authorized by statute to do so;

3 (7) report on the program as appropriate to the
4 governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of
5 representatives;

6 (8) recommend legislation to authorize giving public
7 incentives to program participants;

8 (9) appoint a program director to initiate, implement,
9 and administer the studies and pilot projects conducted under this
10 chapter; and

11 (10) identify exiting public and private programs with
12 goals similar to those of the partnership and study the feasibility
13 of collaborating with the programs and of integrating partnership
14 projects into the existing programs.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.