

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 516

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain immunization programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 161.0095 and 161.0096 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.0095. PHYSICIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) The department shall develop continuing education programs for physicians relating to immunizations and the vaccines for children program operated by the department under authority of 42 U.S.C. Section 1396s, as amended. In developing the continuing education programs and materials, the department shall consult with health care providers.

(b) The department shall:

(1) offer education programs at health care provider annual meetings; and

(2) use Texas Health Steps workers to assist the department in providing the education programs.

Sec. 161.0096. PHYSICIAN EVALUATION. The department shall administer an Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and Exchange evaluation program (AFIX) to assess immunization practices of physicians, including physicians who provide immunizations to children but who are not enrolled as participating providers in the vaccines for children program operated by the department under the

1 authority of 42 U.S.C. Section 1396s, as amended.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 531.063 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 531.063. VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM PROVIDER
5 ENROLLMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT. (a) In this section, "vaccines for
6 children program" means the program operated by the Texas
7 Department of Health under authority of 42 U.S.C. Section 1396s, as
8 amended.

9 (b) The commission shall ensure that a provider can enroll
10 in the vaccines for children program on the same form the provider
11 completes to apply as:

12 (1) a Medicaid health care provider; and

13 (2) a children's health insurance program health care
14 provider.

15 (c) The commission shall reimburse providers under Medicaid
16 and the children's health insurance program for vaccines
17 administered under the vaccines for children program at a rate that
18 covers the cost of administering the vaccines under the program.

19 SECTION 3. Not later than October 1, 2005, the Texas
20 Department of Health shall report to the legislature the results of
21 the educating physicians in your community pilot study operated by
22 the Texas Pediatric Society. The report shall include:

23 (1) an analysis of the program's effect on
24 immunization rates;

25 (2) a statement regarding the cost-effectiveness of
26 the program;

27 (3) recommendations for expanding the program; and

1 (4) a list of possible sources to fund the program.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.