

1-1 By: Lindsay S.B. No. 1202
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2003; March 19, 2003, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Health and Human Services;
1-4 April 14, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 14, 2003,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1202 By: Lindsay

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to directing the Texas Department of Health to study and
1-11 report on the use and effectiveness of nurse triage lines.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

1-14 (1) "Department" means the Texas Department of Health.

1-15 (2) "Nurse triage line" means a telephone hot line
1-16 that persons may call to obtain advice from a nurse or other health
1-17 care professional regarding whether a person should promptly seek
1-18 medical care.

1-19 SECTION 2. STUDY. The department shall study the use and
1-20 effectiveness of nurse triage lines. In conducting the study, the
1-21 department shall:

1-22 (1) identify and communicate with health care plans
1-23 and health care providers that offer clients access to a nurse
1-24 triage line;

1-25 (2) review the current operation of nurse triage lines
1-26 by private and public sector health care plans and health care
1-27 providers in this state and other states;

1-28 (3) determine the extent to which multiple nurse
1-29 triage lines available in the same geographic area are currently
1-30 coordinated and consider how best to coordinate the activities of
1-31 multiple nurse triage lines in the same geographic area;

1-32 (4) study how the availability of nurse triage lines
1-33 is currently advertised and consider how to improve the marketing
1-34 of the service;

1-35 (5) identify areas of the state that do not have access
1-36 to a nurse triage line;

1-37 (6) identify the types of individuals who currently
1-38 have and who currently do not have access to a nurse triage line,
1-39 including Medicaid fee-for-service clients, Medicaid managed care
1-40 clients, Medicaid primary care case management clients, persons
1-41 enrolled in the state child health plan, and persons who obtain
1-42 health care from any public health entity;

1-43 (7) identify any liability issues that affect giving
1-44 advice through a nurse triage line; and

1-45 (8) study how nurse triage lines have impacted the use
1-46 of emergency and trauma rooms in this state.

1-47 SECTION 3. STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN. The department shall
1-48 develop a statewide strategic plan on how to maximize the
1-49 effectiveness and operation of nurse triage lines in this state.
1-50 The plan must:

1-51 (1) include strategies that the state should employ to
1-52 improve access to and coordination of existing nurse triage lines;

1-53 (2) address the cost of each element of the strategic
1-54 plan and possible sources of funding for implementing the plan;

1-55 (3) recommend any necessary legislation;

1-56 (4) include strategies for improving state support of
1-57 health care plans and providers that currently offer nurse triage
1-58 lines and improving coordination of existing nurse triage lines;
1-59 and

1-60 (5) recommend measures to increase access to nurse
1-61 triage lines by underserved areas and underserved populations.

1-62 SECTION 4. REPORT. (a) The department shall publish the
1-63 results and findings of its study together with the statewide

2-1 strategic plan developed as a result of the study in a report that
2-2 the department shall issue to the governor, the presiding officer
2-3 of each house of the legislature, and the members of each standing
2-4 committee of either house of the legislature that has jurisdiction
2-5 over the department.

2-6 (b) The department shall issue the report not later than
2-7 November 1, 2004.

2-8 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION. This Act expires June 1, 2005.

2-9 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
2-10 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
2-11 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
2-12 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
2-13 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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