

By: Delisi

H.B. No. 2475

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a cervical cancer initiative.

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

SECTION 1. CERVICAL CANCER INITIATIVE. (a) The Department of State Health Services shall develop a strategic plan to eliminate mortality from cervical cancer by the year 2015.

(b) The department shall collaborate with the Texas Cancer Council and may convene workgroups as necessary that may include:

(1) physicians and nurses specializing in cervical cancer screening, treatment, or research;

(2) cancer epidemiologists;

(3) representatives of medical schools or schools of public health;

(4) high school or college health educators;

(5) representatives from geographic areas or other population groups at higher risk of cervical cancer;

(6) representatives of community-based organizations involved in providing education, awareness, or support relating to cervical cancer; or

(7) other representatives the department determines are necessary.

(c) In developing the plan, the Department of State Health Services shall:

(1) identify barriers to effective screening and

1 treatment for cervical cancer, including specific barriers  
2 affecting providers and patients;

3 (2) identify methods to increase the number of women  
4 screened regularly for cervical cancer;

5 (3) review current technologies and best practices for  
6 cervical cancer screening;

7 (4) review technology available to diagnose and  
8 prevent infection by Human Papilloma Virus;

9 (5) develop methods to create partnerships with public  
10 and private entities to increase awareness of cervical cancer and  
11 the importance of regular screening;

12 (6) review current screening, treatment, and related  
13 activities in this state and identify gaps in service;

14 (7) identify actions to be taken to reduce the  
15 morbidity and mortality from cervical cancer by the year 2015 and a  
16 time line for taking those actions; and

17 (8) make recommendations to the legislature on policy  
18 changes and funding needed to achieve the strategic plan.

19 (d) Not later than December 31, 2006, the Department of  
20 State Health Services shall deliver the strategic plan to the  
21 governor and members of the legislature.

22 (e) This section expires January 1, 2007.

23 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
24 1, 2005.