

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 2796

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of health care in areas near the Texas-Mexico border.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 151, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 151.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 151.011. BORDER AREA HEALTH CARE DELIVERY STUDY. (a) In this section, "border area" includes each county any part of which is located within 250 miles of the border between this state and the United Mexican States.

(b) The institute shall study the health care delivery system in the border area. As part of the study the institute shall:

(1) identify the ways in which non-physician health care providers are being used to provide health care services in border areas;

(2) determine which border areas have been successful and unsuccessful in recruiting and retaining physicians and non-physician health care providers to practice in the border areas;

(3) identify the non-physician health care providers who could, within the scope of the health care providers' license, certification, or registration, supplement the provision of health care services in the border areas;

1 (4) examine whether non-physician health care
2 providers, delivery of services by non-physician health care
3 providers in nontraditional settings, or delivery of services by
4 non-physician health care providers with additional treatment
5 authority would provide a benefit in the delivery of health care
6 services in border areas; and

7 (5) recommend pilot programs to test and implement the
8 study recommendations.

9 (c) In performing the study under Subsection (b), the
10 institute shall consult with a variety of the health care
11 practitioners in the border area, including emergency medical
12 service providers, physicians, hospitals, health clinics, family
13 planning clinics, optometrists, podiatrists, advanced nurse
14 practitioners, and chiropractors.

15 (d) Not later than January 1, 2007, the institute shall
16 report the results of the study conducted under this section in
17 writing to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
18 the house of representatives, and the members of the legislature.
19 The report must include any proposed legislation the institute,
20 through this study, determines will facilitate the improvement of
21 the delivery of health care in border areas.

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

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