

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 2796

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Border Health Institute of health care delivery in the border area.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 3, Education Code, is amended by adding a new section 151.011 to read as follows: SECTION 151.011 BORDER AREA HEALTH CARE DELIVERY STUDY

(a) 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 physicians and non-physicians and retaining health care providers to practice in border areas;

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

(4) examine whether non-physician health care providers, or delivery of services by non-physician health care providers in nontraditional settings, or delivery of services by non-physician health care providers with additional treatment

1 authority would provide a benefit in the delivery of health care
2 services in border areas; and

3 (5) recommend pilot programs to test and implement the
4 study recommendations.

5 (b) In performing the study under Subsection (a) of this
6 section, the Institute shall consult with a variety of the health
7 care practitioners in the border area, including emergency medical
8 service providers, physicians, hospitals, optometrists,
9 podiatrists, advanced nurse practitioners, chiropractors, health
10 clinics, and family planning clinics.

11 (c) For purposes of this section, "border area" shall mean
12 all counties which are located in whole or in part within 100
13 kilometers of the Texas border with Mexico.

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

21 (e) This act expires September 1, 2007.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect on September 1, 2005.