

AN ACT

relating to the creation and functions of an arthritis control and prevention program.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 96 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 96. ARTHRITIS CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Sec. 96.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Arthritis" means a rheumatic disease consisting of the chronic inflammation of joints, muscles, or connective tissue.

(2) "Program" means the arthritis control and prevention program.

Sec. 96.002. ARTHRITIS CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAM. To the extent that money has been appropriated or is otherwise available, the department shall develop and implement an arthritis control and prevention program to:

(1) heighten awareness and enhance knowledge and understanding of arthritis among consumers, health professionals, teachers, and human services providers; and

(2) work to increase and improve community-based services available to persons with arthritis and their families.

Sec. 96.003. NEEDS ASSESSMENT. As part of the program, the department shall work with public and private organizations to

1 assess the current status of arthritis, considering information
2 such as:

- 3 (1) mortality and morbidity;
4 (2) public and professional awareness; and
5 (3) educational needs for and support services
6 available to people with arthritis.

7 Sec. 96.004. PUBLIC AWARENESS. (a) The department through
8 the program shall work with public and private organizations to
9 raise public awareness of:

- 10 (1) the causes and nature of arthritis;
11 (2) personal risk factors;
12 (3) the value of prevention and early detection;
13 (4) ways to minimize preventable pain; and
14 (5) options for diagnosing and treating arthritis.

15 (b) The department may use strategies, including strategies
16 consistent with the National Arthritis Action Plan and other state
17 arthritis planning efforts to heighten public awareness under
18 Subsection (a).

19 Sec. 96.005. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. In implementing the
20 program, the department may:

- 21 (1) identify, replicate, and use successful
22 evidence-based arthritis programs; and
23 (2) obtain relevant materials and services from
24 organizations with appropriate expertise and knowledge of
25 arthritis.

26 Sec. 96.006. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. (a) The
27 department may enter into contracts or agreements as necessary to

1 carry out this chapter. The contracts or agreements may provide for
2 payment by the state for materials, equipment, and services.

3 (b) The department may seek, receive, and spend any money
4 received through appropriations, grants, donations, or
5 contributions from public or private sources to develop and
6 implement the program.

7 (c) The department shall provide and train staff to
8 implement the program.

9 Sec. 96.007. ARTHRITIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The
10 department shall establish and coordinate the Arthritis Advisory
11 Committee. The committee consists of members appointed by the
12 commissioner, including:

13 (1) persons with arthritis;

14 (2) public health educators or other persons
15 knowledgeable in health education;

16 (3) medical experts on arthritis;

17 (4) providers of arthritis health care; and

18 (5) representatives of national arthritis
19 organizations and their local chapters.

20 (b) The committee shall advise the department on developing
21 and implementing the program.

22 (c) A member of the committee receives no additional
23 compensation for serving on the committee and may not be reimbursed
24 for travel or other expenses incurred while conducting the business
25 of the committee.

26 (d) The committee is not subject to Chapter 2110, Government
27 Code.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 691 passed the Senate on April 12, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 691 passed the House on May 25, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor