

By: Madla

S.B. No. 691

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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. 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 conduct a needs assessment to identify:

(1) epidemiological and other public health research

1 on arthritis;

2 (2) available technical assistance and educational  
3 materials;

4 (3) the level of public and professional arthritis  
5 awareness;

6 (4) the needs of people with arthritis, their  
7 families, and caregivers;

8 (5) educational and support service needs of health  
9 care providers;

10 (6) services available to a person with arthritis,  
11 including rehabilitation services; and

12 (7) the existence of arthritis treatment,  
13 self-management, physical activity, and other education programs.

14 Sec. 96.004. PUBLIC AWARENESS. (a) The department through  
15 the program shall work to raise public awareness of:

16 (1) the causes and nature of arthritis;

17 (2) personal risk factors;

18 (3) the value of prevention and early detection;

19 (4) ways to minimize preventable pain; and

20 (5) options for diagnosing and treating arthritis.

21 (b) The department may use strategies, including strategies  
22 consistent with the National Arthritis Action Plan and other state  
23 arthritis planning efforts to heighten public awareness under  
24 Subsection (a).

25 Sec. 96.005. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. In implementing the  
26 program, the department may:

27 (1) identify, replicate, and use successful

1 evidence-based arthritis programs; and

2 (2) obtain relevant materials and services from  
3 organizations with appropriate expertise and knowledge of  
4 arthritis.

5 Sec. 96.006. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS. (a) The  
6 department may enter into contracts or agreements as necessary to  
7 carry out this chapter. The contracts or agreements may provide for  
8 payment by the state for materials, equipment, and services.

9 (b) The department may seek, receive, and spend any money  
10 received through appropriations, grants, donations, or  
11 contributions from public or private sources to develop and  
12 implement the program.

13 (c) The department shall provide and train staff to  
14 implement the program.

15 Sec. 96.007. ARTHRITIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The  
16 department shall establish and coordinate the Arthritis Advisory  
17 Committee. The committee consists of members appointed by the  
18 commissioner, including:

19 (1) persons with arthritis;

20 (2) public health educators or other persons  
21 knowledgeable in health education;

22 (3) medical experts on arthritis;

23 (4) providers of arthritis health care; and

24 (5) representatives of national arthritis  
25 organizations and their local chapters.

26 (b) The committee shall advise the department on developing  
27 and implementing the program.

1        (c) A member of the committee receives no additional  
2 compensation for serving on the committee and may not be reimbursed  
3 for travel or other expenses incurred while conducting the business  
4 of the committee.

5        (d) The committee is not subject to Chapter 2110, Government  
6 Code.

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