

By: Madla

S.B. No. 1001

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the provision of health care in medically underserved
3 communities.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this Act, "medically underserved
6 community" means a community that:

7 (1) is located in a county with a population of 50,000
8 or less;

9 (2) has been designated under state or federal law as a
10 health professional shortage area; or

11 (3) has been designated as a medically underserved
12 community by the Department of State Health Services.

13 (b) The Statewide Health Coordinating Council in
14 conjunction with Area Health Education Centers shall study the
15 health care delivery system in five geographically diverse
16 medically underserved communities of the state who request to be
17 part of the study. At least one of the communities should be an
18 urban area. As part of the study the department shall:

19 (1) identify the ways in which non-physician health
20 care providers are being used to supplement the provision of health
21 care services in medically underserved communities;

22 (2) determine which medically underserved communities
23 of the state have been successful and unsuccessful in recruiting
24 and retaining physicians to practice in the community;

1 (3) identify the non-physician health care providers
2 who could, within the scope of the health care providers' license,
3 certification, or registration, supplement the provision of health
4 care services in medically underserved communities;

5 (4) examine whether alternative supervision of
6 non-physician health care providers or delivery of services by
7 non-physician health care providers in nontraditional settings
8 would provide a benefit in the delivery of health care services in
9 medically underserved communities;

10 (5) examine whether each community is medically
11 underserved as a result of a shortage of providers, a shortage of
12 appropriate health care facilities, or both; and

13 (6) evaluate the measures each medically underserved
14 community has taken to resolve the health professional shortage in
15 the community, determine whether those measures have been
16 successful in reducing the shortage, and identify innovative
17 solutions that should be replicated.

18 (c) In performing the study under Subsection (b) of this
19 section, the Department of State Health Services shall consult with
20 a variety of the health care practitioners in medically underserved
21 communities, including emergency medical service providers,
22 physicians, rural hospitals, rural health clinics, and family
23 planning clinics.

24 (d) The department shall seek the participation of, and
25 consult with, representatives of each medically underserved
26 community in the study to develop ways the community can improve the
27 delivery of health care services.

1 (e) Not later than January 1, 2007, the Department of State
2 Health Services shall report the results of the study conducted
3 under this section in writing to the lieutenant governor, the
4 speaker of the house of representatives, and the members and
5 members-elect of the 80th Legislature. The report must include any
6 proposed legislation the department, through this study,
7 determines will facilitate the improvement of the delivery of
8 health care in medically underserved communities.

9 (f) This Act expires September 1, 2007.

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