

By: Dukes

H.B. No. 1396

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Office for the Elimination of Health Disparities and the health disparities task force.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 12, Health and Safety Code, is transferred to Subtitle E, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, redesignated as Chapter 107A, Health and Safety Code, and amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 107A [~~SUBCHAPTER G~~]. OFFICE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF HEALTH DISPARITIES [~~OF MINORITY HEALTH~~]

Sec. 107A.001 [~~12.081~~]. OFFICE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF HEALTH DISPARITIES [~~OF MINORITY HEALTH~~]. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission [~~department~~] shall [~~establish and~~] maintain an office for the elimination of health disparities [~~of minority health~~] in the Health and Human Services Commission [~~department~~] to:

(1) assume a leadership role in working or contracting with state and federal agencies, universities, private interest groups, communities, foundations, and offices of minority health to develop [~~minority~~] health initiatives to decrease or eliminate health and health access disparities among multicultural, disadvantaged, and regional populations, including appropriate language services [~~bilingual communications~~]; and

(2) maximize use of existing resources without

1 duplicating existing efforts.

2 Sec. 107A.002 [~~12.082~~]. POWERS OF OFFICE. The office may:

3 (1) provide a central information and referral source,
4 including a clearinghouse for health disparities information, and
5 serve as the primary state resource in coordinating, planning, and
6 advocating access to [~~minority~~] health care services to eliminate
7 health disparities in this state;

8 (2) coordinate conferences and other training
9 opportunities to increase skills among state agencies and
10 government staff in management and in the appreciation of cultural
11 diversity;

12 (3) pursue and administer grant funds for innovative
13 projects for communities, groups, and individuals;

14 (4) provide recommendations and training in improving
15 minority recruitment in state agencies;

16 (5) publicize information regarding health
17 disparities and minority health issues through the use of the
18 media;

19 (6) network with existing minority organizations,
20 community-based health groups, and statewide health coalitions;

21 (7) solicit, receive, and spend grants, gifts, and
22 donations from public and private sources; and

23 (8) contract with public and private entities in the
24 performance of its responsibilities.

25 Sec. 107A.003 [~~12.083~~]. FUNDING. The Health and Human
26 Services Commission [~~department~~] may distribute to the office
27 unobligated and unexpended appropriations to be used to carry out

1 its powers.

2 ~~[Sec. 12.084. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Not later than~~
3 ~~January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the office shall submit a~~
4 ~~biennial report to the legislature regarding the activities of the~~
5 ~~office and any findings and recommendations relating to minority~~
6 ~~health issues.]~~

7 SECTION 2. Sections 107.001 through 107.004 and 107.008,
8 Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 107.001. DEFINITIONS [~~DEFINITION~~]. In this chapter:

10 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services
11 Commission.

12 (2) "Executive commissioner" means the executive
13 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

14 (3) "Health and human services agency" means a health
15 and human services agency listed by Section 531.001, Government
16 Code.

17 (4) "Task~~[, "task]~~ force" means the health disparities
18 task force established under this chapter.

19 Sec. 107.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of the task force is to
20 assist the commission [~~department~~] in accomplishing the following
21 goals:

22 (1) to eliminate health and health access disparities
23 in Texas among multicultural, disadvantaged, and regional
24 populations; and

25 (2) to structure health and human services agency
26 [~~reorganize department~~] programs to eliminate health and health
27 access [~~those~~] disparities.

1 Sec. 107.003. DUTIES. (a) The task force shall:

2 (1) investigate and report on issues related to health
3 and health access disparities among multicultural, disadvantaged,
4 and regional populations;

5 (2) develop short-term and long-term strategies to
6 eliminate health and health access disparities among
7 multicultural, disadvantaged, and regional populations, with a
8 focus on structuring health and human services agency [~~reorganizing~~
9 ~~department~~] programs to eliminate those disparities;

10 (3) monitor the progress of each health and human
11 services agency [~~the department~~] in:

12 (A) eliminating [~~the~~] health and health access
13 disparities; and

14 (B) structuring the agency's program activities
15 [~~reorganizing department programs~~] to eliminate the disparities;
16 and

17 (4) advise each health and human services agency [~~the~~
18 ~~department~~] on the implementation of any targeted programs or
19 funding authorized by the legislature to address health and health
20 access disparities.

21 (b) In performing the duties described in Subsection (a),
22 the task force shall consult with each health and human services
23 agency [~~the department~~], the Office for the Elimination of Health
24 Disparities [~~of Minority Health and Cultural Competency, women's~~
25 ~~health offices of the department~~], and any other relevant division
26 of the commission [~~the department~~].

27 Sec. 107.004. REPORT. The task force shall submit a

1 biennial report on the progress of each health and human services
2 agency [~~the department~~] in accomplishing the goals described by
3 Section 107.002 to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker
4 of the house of representatives. This report may be combined with
5 any other report required of the commission [~~department~~] by law.

6 Sec. 107.008. PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES. The task force is
7 administratively attached to the commission [~~department~~]. The
8 commission [~~department~~] shall provide the necessary staff and
9 facilities to assist the task force in performing its duties.

10 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act do not affect
11 the entitlement of a member serving on the health disparities task
12 force immediately before the effective date of this Act to continue
13 to carry out the task force's functions for the remainder of the
14 member's term.

15 SECTION 4. (a) On January 1, 2008, or on an earlier date
16 specified by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
17 Services Commission:

18 (1) the Department of State Health Services shall
19 transfer any property, records, or personnel of the department
20 related to the administration of the Office for the Elimination of
21 Health Disparities, formerly known as the Office of Minority
22 Health, or the health disparities task force to the Health and Human
23 Services Commission to assist the commission to begin administering
24 Chapter 107, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, as
25 efficiently as practicable;

26 (2) all powers, duties, functions, activities,
27 obligations, rights, contracts, records, property, and

1 appropriations or other money of the Office for the Elimination of
2 Health Disparities, formerly known as the Office of Minority
3 Health, or the health disparities task force are transferred to the
4 Health and Human Services Commission;

5 (3) a rule or form adopted by the Department of State
6 Health Services that relates to the Office for the Elimination of
7 Health Disparities, the Office of Minority Health, or the health
8 disparities task force is a rule or form of the Health and Human
9 Services Commission and remains in effect until altered by the
10 commission; and

11 (4) a reference in law or an administrative rule to the
12 Department of State Health Services that relates to the Office for
13 the Elimination of Health Disparities, the Office of Minority
14 Health, or the health disparities task force means the Health and
15 Human Services Commission.

16 (b) The Health and Human Services Commission shall take all
17 action necessary to provide for the transfer of the Office for
18 Elimination of Health Disparities, formerly known as the Office of
19 Minority Health, to the commission as soon as possible after the
20 effective date of this Act but not later than January 1, 2008.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.