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H.B. No. 1948

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a public health extension service pilot program.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 123 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 123. PUBLIC HEALTH EXTENSION SERVICE

PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 123.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the Department of State Health Services.

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

(3) "Program" means the public health extension service pilot program established under this chapter.

Sec. 123.002. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED; PURPOSES. The department shall establish a public health extension service pilot program in Health Service Region 11, a region of the state that may be particularly vulnerable to biosecurity threats, disaster, and other emergencies. The purpose of the program is to:

(1) support local public health and medical infrastructure and promote:

(A) disease control and medical preparedness;
and

(B) biosecurity and the detection of the

1 introduction of dangerous biologic agents, enhanced availability
2 of environmental and toxicologic pathology services, and
3 management of hazardous materials; and

4 (2) evaluate the effectiveness of a public health
5 extension service program for regions of the state that may be
6 particularly vulnerable to biosecurity threats, disaster, and
7 other emergencies.

8 Sec. 123.003. RULES. The executive commissioner may adopt
9 rules for the implementation and administration of the program.

10 Sec. 123.004. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION. The department may
11 contract with The Texas A&M University System or The University of
12 Texas System, or both systems, to implement or administer all or any
13 part of the program.

14 Sec. 123.005. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES. Through the program, the
15 department may implement projects and systems to accomplish the
16 purposes of the program described by Section 123.002, and may:

17 (1) provide support for regional disaster medical
18 assistance teams and tactical medical operations incident
19 management teams;

20 (2) establish a disaster training and exercise
21 program;

22 (3) establish and equip caches to ensure local
23 availability of necessary medical supplies and equipment for use in
24 disasters and other emergencies;

25 (4) establish a regionally based system of emergency
26 medical logistics management to support state and federal emergency
27 management authorities that includes:

1 (A) local patient triage sites; and

2 (B) local emergency medical operations; and

3 (5) establish a regionally based system to provide
4 technical assistance for disaster mitigation and recovery.

5 Sec. 123.006. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2010, the
6 department shall report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and
7 speaker of the house of representatives on the program. The report
8 shall include recommendations for continuation of the program and
9 expansion of the program to other regions of the state that may be
10 particularly vulnerable to biosecurity threats, disaster, and
11 other emergencies.

12 Sec. 123.007. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires and the
13 program is abolished September 2, 2011.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.