

By: Carona

S.B. No. 479

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to requiring the Department of State Health Services to  
3 implement a provider choice system.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 161.0109 of Subchapter A, Chapter 161,  
6 Health and Safety Code, is added as follows:

7 PROVIDER CHOICE SYSTEM Sec.161.0109 (a) The department  
8 shall implement a provider choice system for the Vaccines for  
9 Children program operated by the department under authority of 42  
10 U.S.C. Section 1396s, as amended and the adult safety-net program.

11 (b) The department shall ensure that eligible health care  
12 providers participating in the Vaccines for Children program or  
13 adult safety-net program may select any licensed vaccine, including  
14 combination vaccines and any dosage forms that;

15 (i) are recommended by the Advisory Committee on  
16 Immunizations Practices;

17 (ii) are made available to the department by the  
18 United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

19 (iii) for adult vaccines, are on the approved list of  
20 vaccines offered by the adult safety-net program.

21 (c) The department shall convene the immunization work  
22 group established pursuant to Section 161.0095 Health and Safety  
23 Code to develop a plan for the implementation of the provider choice  
24 system under this section. The plan shall include:

1           (1) education of participating health care providers  
2 about United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
3 procedures and distribution systems; and

4           (2) education of participating providers about  
5 vaccine options, the enrollment process, ordering, accountability  
6 and reporting procedures.

7           (d) The department shall implement all or part of the  
8 provider choice system as soon as it determined to be feasible but  
9 shall complete implementation no later than August 31, 2010.

10          (e) Section 161.0103. Health and Safety Code are repealed on  
11 September 1, 2010.

12          SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.