

By: Nichols

S.B. No. 2117

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to physician staffing requirements for certain hospitals.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 241.0261 to read as follows:

Sec. 241.0261. PHYSICIAN STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN HOSPITALS. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the department may not require a hospital to have a physician qualified to provide emergency medical care on duty at all times if the hospital is:

(1) not designated a level I or level II trauma facility under Chapter 773; and

(2) located within 10 miles of a health care facility that is designated a level I or II trauma facility under Chapter 773.

(b) A hospital described by Subsection (a) shall have, at a minimum, a physician on duty at all times that there are patients in the hospital.

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