

By: Kolkhorst, Walle

H.B. No. 2636

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a commission to study neonatal intensive care units.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

(1) "Commission" means the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Commission established under this section.

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

(b) The executive commissioner shall create and appoint the members of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Commission as provided by Subsection (d) of this section to study and make recommendations regarding neonatal intensive care unit operating standards and reimbursement through the Medicaid program for services provided to an infant admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit.

(c) The commission shall:

(1) develop standards for operating a neonatal intensive care unit in this state;

(2) develop an accreditation process for a neonatal intensive care unit to receive reimbursement for services provided through the Medicaid program; and

(3) study and make recommendations regarding best practices and protocols to lower admissions to a neonatal intensive care unit.

(d) The executive commissioner shall appoint the following

1 as members of the commission:

2 (1) four neonatologists, at least two of whom must
3 practice in a Level IIIC neonatal intensive care unit;

4 (2) one general pediatrician;

5 (3) two general obstetrician-gynecologists;

6 (4) two maternal fetal medicine specialists;

7 (5) one family practice physician who provides
8 obstetrical care and practices in a rural community;

9 (6) one representative from a children's hospital;

10 (7) one representative from a hospital with a Level II
11 neonatal intensive care unit; and

12 (8) one representative from a rural hospital.

13 (e) The executive commissioner shall designate a member of
14 the commission to serve as presiding officer. The members of the
15 commission shall elect any other necessary officers.

16 (f) The commission shall meet at the call of the executive
17 commissioner.

18 (g) A member of the commission serves at the will of the
19 executive commissioner.

20 (h) A member of the commission is not entitled to
21 reimbursement of expenses or to compensation.

22 (i) The commission may accept gifts and grants from any
23 source to be used to carry out a function of the commission.

24 (j) Not later than January 1, 2013, the commission shall
25 submit a report to the executive commissioner, the governor, the
26 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
27 and the chairs of the appropriate legislative committees on its

1 findings and recommendations required by this section.

2 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2011, the executive
3 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
4 appoint the members of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Commission
5 as required by Section 1 of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act expires June 1, 2013.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.