

AN ACT

relating to a council to study neonatal intensive care units.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

(1) "Council" means the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Council 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 Council 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 council 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 council:

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 council to serve as presiding officer. The members of the
15 council shall elect any other necessary officers.

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

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

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

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

24 (j) Not later than January 1, 2013, the council shall submit
25 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 Council as
5 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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2636 was passed by the House on May 5, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2636 on May 25, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2636 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor