

By: Rodriguez

S.B. No. 339

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the health professions resource center.

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

SECTION 1. Section 105.002, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) To the extent funding is available through fees collected under Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, the council shall establish a social work resource section within the center for the collection and analysis of educational and employment trends for social workers in this state.

(e) If the social work resource section established under Subsection (d) is funded from surcharges collected under Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, the council shall provide the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners with an annual accounting of the money received from the board. The council may expend a reasonable amount of the money to pay administrative costs of maintaining the social work resource section.

SECTION 2. Sections 105.003(a), (c-1), (d), and (e), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The council shall place a high priority on collecting and disseminating data on health professions demonstrating an acute shortage in this state, including:

(1) data concerning nursing personnel; ~~and~~

(2) data concerning social workers; and

1 (3) data concerning the health professions in which
2 shortages occur in rural areas and areas near the international
3 border.

4 (c-1) The Department of Information Resources, through the
5 state electronic Internet portal and in consultation with the
6 council and the Health Professions Council, shall add the following
7 fields on an application or renewal form for a license,
8 certificate, or registration for a person subject to Subsection
9 (c-2):

- 10 (1) date and place of birth;
- 11 (2) sex;
- 12 (3) race and ethnicity;
- 13 (4) location of high school;
- 14 (5) mailing address of primary practice;
- 15 (6) number of hours per week spent at primary practice
16 location;
- 17 (7) description of primary practice setting;
- 18 (8) primary practice information, including primary
19 specialty practice, practice location zip code, and county; ~~and~~
- 20 (9) information regarding any additional practice,
21 including description of practice setting, practice location zip
22 code, and county; and
- 23 (10) a description of the person's language fluency.

24 (d) To the extent feasible, the council shall use a
25 researcher with a doctorate in nursing to collect, analyze, and
26 disseminate nursing data that may be used to predict supply and
27 demand for nursing personnel in this state using appropriate

1 federal or state supply-and-demand models. To the extent feasible,
2 the council shall use a researcher with a degree from a master's
3 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work
4 Education and a doctorate in social work to collect, analyze, and
5 disseminate social work data that may be used to predict supply and
6 demand for social work personnel in this state using appropriate
7 federal or state supply-and-demand models. The nursing and social
8 work data must at least:

9 (1) include demographics, areas of practice, supply,
10 demand, and migration; and

11 (2) be analyzed to identify trends relating to numbers
12 and geographical distribution, practice setting, and area of
13 practice and, to the extent possible, compare those trends with
14 corresponding national trends.

15 (e) Data received under this section by the nursing resource
16 section or the social work resource section established under
17 Section 105.002 that contains information identifying specific
18 patients or health care facilities is confidential, is not subject
19 to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may not be
20 released unless all identifying information is removed.

21 SECTION 3. Section 105.004(b), Health and Safety Code, is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (b) The council shall publish reports regarding the data
24 collected and analyzed under this chapter related to:

25 (1) the educational and employment trends of nursing
26 and social work professionals;

27 (2) the supply and demand of nursing and social work

1 professionals; and

2 (3) other issues, as determined necessary by the
3 council, concerning nursing or social work professionals in this
4 state.

5 SECTION 4. Section 505.203, Occupations Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

7 (d) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the
8 amount of the fee to renew a social worker license is increased by
9 \$10. The board may use six cents from the amount of the surcharge
10 under this subsection to cover the administrative costs of
11 collecting and depositing the surcharge. The board quarterly shall
12 transmit the remainder of each surcharge to the Department of State
13 Health Services to be used only to fund the social work resource
14 section under Section 105.002, Health and Safety Code. The board is
15 not required to collect the surcharge if the board determines that
16 the money collected is not appropriated to fund the social work
17 resource section.

18 SECTION 5. Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, as added
19 by this Act, applies only to a license renewed on or after the
20 effective date of this Act. A license renewed before the effective
21 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the
22 license was renewed, and the former law is continued in effect for
23 that purpose.

24 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.