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H.B. No. 1724

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a state plan for Streptococcus pneumoniae education and prevention.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 94A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 94A. STATE PLAN FOR STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE; EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Sec. 94A.001. STATE PLAN FOR STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE. (a)

The department, using existing resources and programs to the extent possible, shall develop a state plan for prevention and treatment of diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae. The plan must include strategies for prevention and treatment of diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae in specific demographic groups that are disproportionately affected by the diseases, including persons who are elderly, children under two years of age, persons living in long-term care facilities, persons with a chronic heart or lung disease, smokers, and persons with asplenia.

(b) In developing the plan, the department with the assistance of the executive commissioner shall seek the input of:

(1) the public, including members of the public who have had diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae;

(2) each state agency that provides services to persons infected with Streptococcus pneumoniae or the functions of

1 which otherwise involve diseases caused by Streptococcus  
2 pneumoniae, including any appropriate health and human services  
3 agency described by Section 531.001, Government Code, the Employees  
4 Retirement System of Texas, and the Teacher Retirement System of  
5 Texas;

6 (3) any advisory body that addresses issues related to  
7 diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae;

8 (4) public advocates concerned with issues related to  
9 vaccine-preventable diseases;

10 (5) providers of services to persons with diseases  
11 caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae; and

12 (6) a statewide professional association of  
13 physicians.

14 (c) The department shall update the state plan developed  
15 under this section at least once every five years and may update the  
16 state plan biennially.

17 Sec. 94A.002. STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE EDUCATION AND  
18 PREVENTION PROGRAM. (a) The department shall develop a program to  
19 heighten awareness and enhance knowledge and understanding of  
20 Streptococcus pneumoniae.

21 (b) The program developed under Subsection (a) must require  
22 the department to:

23 (1) conduct health education, public awareness, and  
24 community outreach activities to promote public awareness and  
25 knowledge about the risk factors for, the value of early detection  
26 of, available screening services for, and the options available for  
27 the treatment of diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae; and

1           (2) post on the department's Internet website the  
2 options available for the prevention, treatment, and detection of  
3 diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae and information on the  
4 risk factors for, method of transmission of, and value of early  
5 detection of the diseases.

6           (c) The department, using existing resources, may include  
7 in the program developed under Subsection (a) a study to estimate  
8 the current and future impact of diseases caused by Streptococcus  
9 pneumoniae on this state.

10           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.