

AN ACT

relating to a study on reducing workplace violence against nurses.

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

SECTION 1. Section 105.001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subdivisions (3), (4), (5), and (6) to read as follows:

(3) "Freestanding emergency medical care facility" means a facility licensed under Chapter 254.

(4) "Home health agency" means a home and community support services agency licensed under Chapter 142.

(5) "Hospital" means a general or special hospital licensed under Chapter 241, a private mental hospital licensed under Chapter 577, or a hospital that is maintained or operated by this state or an agency of this state.

(6) "Nursing facility" means an institution licensed under Chapter 242.

SECTION 2. Chapter 105, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 105.009 to read as follows:

Sec. 105.009. STUDY ON WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AGAINST NURSES.

(a) To the extent existing funding is available, the nursing resource section established under Section 105.002 may conduct a study on workplace violence against nurses in hospitals, freestanding emergency medical care facilities, nursing facilities, and home health agencies. A study conducted under this

1 section must:

2 (1) distinguish between verbal and physical violence;

3 (2) determine the practice areas, environments, and
4 settings in which verbal or physical violence is likely to occur;

5 (3) identify practices that prevent or reduce verbal
6 and physical violence against nurses;

7 (4) survey nurses regarding the type and frequency of
8 verbal and physical violence the nurses have experienced in the
9 preceding year and throughout the nurses' careers; and

10 (5) survey hospitals, freestanding emergency medical
11 care facilities, nursing facilities, and home health agencies
12 regarding the occurrence of verbal and physical violence against
13 nurses and specific strategies implemented to prevent verbal and
14 physical violence, including:

15 (A) required reporting of verbal and physical
16 violence;

17 (B) reporting of physical assaults to law
18 enforcement; and

19 (C) implementation of a violence prevention plan
20 and the contents of and personnel covered by the plan.

21 (b) The nursing resource section may contract with an
22 independent researcher to conduct all or part of the study.

23 (c) The nursing advisory committee established by Section
24 104.0155 shall serve as the oversight committee for the study.

25 (d) To the extent possible, the nursing resource section
26 shall cooperate with the department and the Texas Board of Nursing
27 to conduct the study and coordinate the surveys under this section

1 with surveys required by other provisions of law.

2 (e) If the nursing resource section conducts a study under
3 this section, not later than December 1, 2016, the nursing resource
4 section shall complete the study and publish the study findings.

5 (f) This section expires December 31, 2017.

6 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
7 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
8 Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement
9 Section 105.009, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2696 was passed by the House on May 11, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 112, Nays 22, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2696 on May 28, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 6, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2696 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 2.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor