

By: Howard

H.B. No. 2696

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program for, and a study on, reducing workplace violence in certain health facilities.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANTS FOR CERTAIN HEALTH FACILITIES

Sec. 1001.301. WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANTS IN HEALTH FACILITIES. (a) The department shall administer a grant program to fund de-escalation and crisis intervention training in health facilities licensed by the department to prevent and reduce instances of workplace violence.

(b) To receive a grant, a licensed health facility must demonstrate an elevated risk of workplace violence to facility staff and volunteers and include in the grant application any instance of workplace violence that occurred at the facility in the preceding two years.

(c) Not later than the second anniversary of the date a facility receives a grant under this section, the facility shall compile a report describing the effects of the de-escalation and crisis intervention training in the facility, including any change in the number of instances of workplace violence in the facility.

(d) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year,

1 the department shall submit to the governor, lieutenant governor,
2 and speaker of the house of representatives a report on the grants
3 awarded under this section, including the amount of each grant and
4 the rate of success in reducing instances of workplace violence in
5 the health facilities or in maintaining low rates of workplace
6 violence in the health facilities.

7 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to
8 implement the grant program, including rules governing the
9 submission and approval of grant requests and establishing a
10 reporting procedure for a grant recipient.

11 SECTION 2. (a) The Department of State Health Services
12 shall conduct a study on workplace violence in health facilities
13 licensed by the department. The study must:

14 (1) determine the facilities with the highest
15 incidence of workplace violence;

16 (2) determine the staff and volunteers in those
17 facilities that are most at risk for workplace violence; and

18 (3) include recommendations on best practices to
19 address workplace violence to prevent its occurrence.

20 (b) Not later than December 31, 2016, the Department of
21 State Health Services shall submit a report containing the results
22 of the study conducted under Subsection (a) of this section to the
23 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
24 representatives.

25 (c) This section expires December 31, 2017.

26 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
27 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human

H.B. No. 2696

1 Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement
2 Section 1001.301, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.