

By: Landgraf

H.B. No. 2924

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to information regarding Down syndrome.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter W to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER W. INFORMATION REGARDING DOWN SYNDROME

Sec. 161.651. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Down syndrome" means a chromosomal condition caused by the presence of an extra whole or partial copy of chromosome 21.

(2) "Health care facility" has the meaning assigned by Section 82.002.

(3) "Health care provider" has the meaning assigned by Section 34.001 and includes a genetic counselor.

Sec. 161.652. INFORMATION REGARDING DOWN SYNDROME. (a) The department shall provide written information regarding Down syndrome to health care facilities and health care providers that furnish prenatal care, postnatal care, or genetic counseling to expectant parents and parents no later than January 1, 2016. The written information must include:

(1) information addressing physical, developmental, educational, and psychosocial outcomes, life expectancy, clinical course, and intellectual and functional development for individuals with Down syndrome;

1 (2) information regarding available treatment options
2 for individuals with Down syndrome; and

3 (3) contact information for national and local Down
4 syndrome education and support programs and services, including
5 information hotlines, resource centers, and clearinghouses.

6 (b) The written information described by Subsection (a)
7 must be current, evidence-based information that:

8 (1) has been reviewed by medical experts and both
9 local and national Down syndrome organizations;

10 (2) is designed to inform:

11 (A) expectant parents who receive a prenatal test
12 result indicating a probability or diagnosis that the unborn child
13 has Down syndrome; or

14 (B) a parent of a child who is diagnosed with Down
15 syndrome; and

16 (3) does not discriminate based on disability or
17 genetic variation by explicitly or implicitly presenting pregnancy
18 termination as an option when a prenatal test indicates that the
19 unborn child has Down syndrome or any other health condition.

20 (c) The written information described by Subsection (a)
21 must be published in English and Spanish.

22 (d) The department shall make the written information
23 described by Subsection (a) available on the department's Internet
24 website.

25 (e) A health care provider shall provide the written
26 information described by Subsection (a) to:

27 (1) expectant parents who receive a prenatal test

1 result indicating a probability or diagnosis that the unborn child
2 has Down syndrome; or

3 (2) a parent of a child who receives a diagnosis of
4 Down syndrome.

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