

By: Bonnen of Galveston, Lucio III, Blanco,
Guillen

H.B. No. 3105

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a multi-stakeholder advisory
committee on health literacy.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1002, Health and Safety Code, is amended
by adding Subchapter F to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER F. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

LITERACY

Sec. 1002.251. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Advisory committee" means the multi-stakeholder
advisory committee on health literacy established under this
subchapter.

(2) "Health literacy" means the degree to which an
individual has the capacity to obtain, communicate, process, and
understand basic health information and services so the person may
make appropriate decisions about the treatment, payment, or
coverage of health care and navigate complexities in the health
care system.

Sec. 1002.252. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH LITERACY. The institute shall establish a multi-stakeholder
advisory committee on health literacy to study and make
recommendations to improve health literacy in this state.

Sec. 1002.253. COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The
advisory committee is composed of:

1 (1) three members of the board selected by the
2 presiding officer of the board;

3 (2) a representative from each of the following
4 agencies, selected by the executive head of the agency:

5 (A) the Department of Aging and Disability
6 Services;

7 (B) the center for elimination of
8 disproportionality and disparities;

9 (C) the Employees Retirement System of Texas;

10 (D) the Teacher Retirement System of Texas; and

11 (E) each state agency or system of higher
12 education that purchases or provides health care services, as
13 determined by the governor;

14 (3) the following representatives appointed by the
15 governor:

16 (A) three employers domiciled in this state; and

17 (B) three health care consumers; and

18 (4) the following ex officio members:

19 (A) the commissioner or the commissioner's
20 designee;

21 (B) the commissioner of insurance or the
22 commissioner of insurance's designee; and

23 (C) the state Medicaid director of the commission
24 or the director's designee.

25 Sec. 1002.254. PRESIDING OFFICER. The board shall appoint
26 from among the members of the advisory committee a presiding
27 officer and an assistant presiding officer.

1 Sec. 1002.255. VACANCY. A vacancy on the advisory
2 committee shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the
3 original appointment.

4 Sec. 1002.256. MEETINGS. The advisory committee shall meet
5 at the call of the presiding officer.

6 Sec. 1002.257. DUTIES. (a) The advisory committee shall:

7 (1) develop an expanded definition of health literacy
8 that includes a focus on a patient's need for transparent
9 information about the cost and quality of health care and available
10 treatment options;

11 (2) examine the impact of low health literacy on
12 health care cost and quality outcomes; and

13 (3) develop policy recommendations, based on the
14 findings of the advisory committee, to:

15 (A) promote the use of plain language by health
16 care providers;

17 (B) promote the use of simplified enrollment
18 forms;

19 (C) develop health literacy resources for both
20 providers and consumers of health care; and

21 (D) develop programs to support improved health
22 literacy.

23 (b) The advisory committee may consult with and invite
24 participation from groups, organizations, and agencies as needed to
25 accomplish the goals of the committee.

26 Sec. 1002.258. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The institute shall
27 provide administrative support for the advisory committee.

1 Sec. 1002.259. REPORT. (a) The advisory committee shall
2 prepare a report that includes the committee's findings and policy
3 recommendations under Section 1002.257.

4 (b) Not later than October 1, 2016, the advisory committee
5 shall submit the report required under this section to the
6 institute for inclusion in the institute's biennial report and
7 recommendations to the legislature.

8 Sec. 1002.260. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. Members of the
9 advisory committee serve without compensation and may not be
10 reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred while conducting
11 the business of the advisory committee.

12 Sec. 1002.261. EXPIRATION. The advisory committee is
13 abolished and this subchapter expires September 1, 2017.

14 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2015, the appropriate
15 appointing authorities shall appoint the members of the
16 multi-stakeholder advisory committee on health literacy in
17 accordance with Subchapter F, Chapter 1002, Health and Safety Code,
18 as added by this Act.

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