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H.B. No. 3781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Health Improvement Network.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 118 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 118. TEXAS HEALTH IMPROVEMENT NETWORK

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 118.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "network" means the Texas Health Improvement Network established under this chapter.

SUBCHAPTER B. NETWORK

Sec. 118.051. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE. (a) The Texas Health Improvement Network is established to address urgent health care challenges and improve the health care system in this state and the nation and to develop, based on population health research, health care initiatives, policies, and best practices.

(b) The purpose of the network is to:

- (1) reduce the per capita costs of health care;
- (2) improve the individual experience of health care, including the quality of care and patient satisfaction; and
- (3) improve the health of residents of this state.

Sec. 118.052. COMPOSITION OF NETWORK. The network consists of faculty of general academic and health-related public and private institutions of higher education in this state with

1 expertise in:

2 (1) general public health and other medical fields;

3 (2) mental health;

4 (3) nursing;

5 (4) pharmacy;

6 (5) social work;

7 (6) health economics;

8 (7) health policy and law;

9 (8) epidemiology;

10 (9) biostatistics;

11 (10) health informatics;

12 (11) health services research;

13 (12) engineering; and

14 (13) computer science.

15 Sec. 118.053. DUTIES. (a) The network shall establish as
16 its primary goals:

17 (1) evaluating and eliminating health disparities in
18 this state, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and
19 income-related or education-related disparities; and

20 (2) health care cost containment and the economic
21 analysis of health policy.

22 (b) The network shall:

23 (1) function as an incubator and evaluator of health
24 improvement practices; and

25 (2) support local communities in this state by
26 offering leadership training, data analytics, community health
27 assessments, and grant writing support to local communities.

1 Sec. 118.054. ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY
2 OF TEXAS SYSTEM. (a) The network is administratively attached to
3 The University of Texas System.

4 (b) The University of Texas System shall administer and
5 coordinate the network and provide administrative support to the
6 network as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

7 Sec. 118.055. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The network may accept and
8 administer gifts and grants to fund the network from an individual,
9 corporation, trust, or foundation or the federal government,
10 subject to any limitations or conditions imposed by law.

11 Sec. 118.056. REPORT. The network shall report the results
12 of the network's efforts, findings, and activities to the
13 legislature, state and federal partners, and other interested
14 entities.

15 SUBCHAPTER C. ADVISORY COUNCIL

16 Sec. 118.101. ADVISORY COUNCIL. The network shall
17 establish an advisory council to advise the network on the health
18 care needs of this state.

19 Sec. 118.102. COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL. The
20 advisory council is composed of:

21 (1) members who are appointed by an executive officer
22 of The University of Texas System and nominated by participants in
23 the network and who are:

24 (A) state and national leaders in population
25 health;

26 (B) experts in traditional public health and
27 medical fields; and

1 (C) leaders in the fields of behavioral health,
2 business, insurance, philanthropy, education, and health law and
3 policy;

4 (2) representatives from each of the following
5 entities, selected by an executive officer of the entity:

6 (A) The University of Texas System;

7 (B) The Texas A&M University System;

8 (C) the University of North Texas System;

9 (D) the Texas Tech University System; and

10 (E) the Baylor College of Medicine; and

11 (3) representatives from the department and the
12 commission, selected by the executive head of the agency.

13 Sec. 118.103. TERMS. Members of the advisory council serve
14 staggered three-year terms, with the terms of one-third of the
15 members expiring on January 1 of each year.

16 Sec. 118.104. PRESIDING OFFICER. The executive officer of
17 The University of Texas System who appoints members to the advisory
18 council shall appoint a presiding officer from among the members to
19 serve a one-year term.

20 Sec. 118.105. MEETINGS. The advisory council shall meet at
21 the call of the presiding officer or at other times that the council
22 determines are necessary or appropriate.

23 Sec. 118.106. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of
24 the advisory council may not receive compensation for service on
25 the advisory council but may be reimbursed for travel expenses
26 incurred by the member while conducting the business of the
27 advisory council, if funds are available for that purpose, as

1 provided by the General Appropriations Act.

2 Sec. 118.107. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Chapter 2110,
3 Government Code, does not apply to the advisory council.

4 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
5 of this Act, The University of Texas System shall establish the
6 Texas Health Improvement Network as required by Chapter 118, Health
7 and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.