

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of the Texas Health Improvement Network.

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

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

6 CHAPTER 118. TEXAS HEALTH IMPROVEMENT NETWORK

7 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

11 SUBCHAPTER B. NETWORK

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

17 (b) The purpose of the network is to:

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

22 Sec. 118.052. COMPOSITION OF NETWORK. The network consists
23 of experts in:

- 24 (1) general public health and other medical fields;

- 1 (2) mental health;
- 2 (3) nursing;
- 3 (4) pharmacy;
- 4 (5) social work;
- 5 (6) health economics;
- 6 (7) health policy and law;
- 7 (8) epidemiology;
- 8 (9) biostatistics;
- 9 (10) health informatics;
- 10 (11) health services research;
- 11 (12) engineering; and
- 12 (13) computer science.

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

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

18 (2) health care cost containment and the economic
19 analysis of health policy.

20 (b) The network shall:

21 (1) function as an incubator and evaluator of health
22 improvement practices; and

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

26 Sec. 118.054. ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY
27 OF TEXAS SYSTEM. (a) The network is administratively attached to

1 The University of Texas System.

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

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

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

13 SUBCHAPTER C. ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

17 Sec. 118.102. COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL. The
18 advisory council is composed of:

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

22 (A) state and national leaders in population
23 health;

24 (B) experts in traditional public health and
25 medical fields; and

26 (C) leaders in the fields of behavioral health,
27 business, insurance, philanthropy, education, and health law and

1 policy; and

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

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

7 Sec. 118.104. PRESIDING OFFICER. The executive officer of
8 The University of Texas System who appoints members to the advisory
9 council shall appoint a presiding officer from among the members to
10 serve a one-year term.

11 Sec. 118.105. MEETINGS. The advisory council shall meet at
12 the call of the presiding officer or at other times that the council
13 determines are necessary or appropriate.

14 Sec. 118.106. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of
15 the advisory council may not receive compensation for service on
16 the advisory council but may be reimbursed for travel expenses
17 incurred by the member while conducting the business of the
18 advisory council, if funds are available for that purpose, as
19 provided by the General Appropriations Act.

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

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

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3781 was passed by the House on May 15, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 108, Nays 11, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3781 on May 28, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 8, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3781 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