

House Bill 3781
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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 expertise in:

- (1) general public health and other medical fields;
- (2) mental health;
- (3) nursing;
- (4) pharmacy;
- (5) social work;
- (6) health economics;
- (7) health policy and law;
- (8) epidemiology;

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- (9) biostatistics;
- (10) health informatics;
- (11) health services research;
- (12) engineering; and
- (13) computer science.

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

- (1) evaluating and eliminating health disparities in this state, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and income-related or education-related disparities; and
- (2) health care cost containment and the economic analysis of health policy.

(b) The network shall:

- (1) function as an incubator and evaluator of health improvement practices; and
- (2) support local communities in this state by offering leadership training, data analytics, community health assessments, and grant writing support to local communities.

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

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

Sec. 118.055. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The network may accept and administer gifts and grants to fund the network from an individual, corporation, trust, or foundation or the

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federal government, subject to any limitations or conditions imposed by law.

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

SUBCHAPTER C. ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

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

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

(A) state and national leaders in population health;
(B) experts in traditional public health and medical fields; and
(C) leaders in the fields of behavioral health, business, insurance, philanthropy, education, and health law and policy;

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

(A) The University of Texas System;
(B) The Texas A&M University System;
(C) the University of North Texas System;
(D) the Texas Tech University System; and
(E) the Baylor College of Medicine; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SECTION 2. Same as House version.

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

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SECTION 3. Same as House version.

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