

By: Walle

H.B. No. 369

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of maternal health access zones.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. MATERNAL HEALTH ACCESS ZONES

Sec. 32.101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Maternal health access zone" means a contiguous geographic area of this state that has measurable and documented health disparities and poor health outcomes and that is designated by the department as a maternal health access zone under this subchapter.

(2) "Task force" means the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force established under Chapter 34.

Sec. 32.102. ESTABLISHMENT OF MATERNAL HEALTH ACCESS ZONES.

The department, in conjunction with the commission and the task force, shall establish maternal health access zones in areas of this state that are medically underserved or have health disparities among socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and geographic populations to increase access to maternal health care and reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity rates in those areas.

Sec. 32.103. ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING. The department, in conjunction with the commission and task force, shall select at least one health care facility or nonprofit entity as a health care

1 provider for each designated maternal health access zone. The  
2 facility or entity is eligible to receive funds for programs  
3 determined by the department to reduce health disparities and  
4 health care costs and improve health outcomes for women residing in  
5 the zone who are or who have recently been pregnant.

6 Sec. 32.104. RULES. The executive commissioner by rule  
7 shall establish the eligibility requirements, an application  
8 process, and any other rules necessary to implement this  
9 subchapter. The application process must require each applicant to  
10 submit a sustainable plan to reduce health disparities and health  
11 care costs and improve health outcomes for women residing in the  
12 zone.

13 Sec. 32.105. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The department may accept  
14 gifts and grants from any source for the purposes of this  
15 subchapter.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect December 1, 2017.