

By: Cortez, Guerra, et al.

H.B. No. 970

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a state plan for Streptococcus pneumoniae education and prevention.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 94A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 94A. STATE PLAN FOR STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE; EDUCATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Sec. 94A.001. STATE PLAN FOR STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE. (a)

The department, using existing resources and programs to the extent possible, shall develop a state plan for prevention and treatment of diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae. The plan must include strategies for prevention and treatment of diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae in specific demographic groups that are disproportionately affected by the diseases, including persons who are elderly, children under two years of age, persons living in long-term care facilities, persons with a chronic heart or lung disease, smokers, and persons with asplenia.

(b) In developing the plan, the department shall seek the advice of:

(1) the public, including members of the public who have been infected with Streptococcus pneumoniae;

(2) each state agency that provides services to persons infected with Streptococcus pneumoniae or that is assigned

1 duties related to diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae,
2 including any appropriate health and human services agency
3 described by Section 531.001, Government Code, the Employees
4 Retirement System of Texas, and the Teacher Retirement System of
5 Texas;

6 (3) any advisory body that addresses issues related to
7 diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae;

8 (4) public advocates concerned with issues related to
9 diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae;

10 (5) providers of services to persons with diseases
11 caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae;

12 (6) a statewide professional association of
13 physicians; and

14 (7) a statewide professional association of nurses.

15 (c) The department shall review and modify as necessary the
16 state plan developed under this section at least once every five
17 years and may update the state plan biennially.

18 Sec. 94A.002. STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE EDUCATION AND
19 PREVENTION PROGRAM. (a) The department shall develop a program to
20 heighten awareness and enhance knowledge and understanding of
21 Streptococcus pneumoniae.

22 (b) The program developed under Subsection (a) must require
23 the department to:

24 (1) conduct health education, public awareness, and
25 community outreach activities to promote public awareness and
26 knowledge about the risk factors for, the value of early detection
27 of, available screening services for, and the options available for

1 the treatment of diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae; and
2 (2) post on the department's Internet website the
3 options available for the prevention, treatment, and detection of
4 diseases caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae and information on the
5 risk factors for, method of transmission of, and value of early
6 detection of the diseases.

7 (c) The department, using existing resources, may include
8 in the program developed under Subsection (a) a study to estimate
9 the current and future impact on this state of diseases caused by
10 Streptococcus pneumoniae.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.