

By: Burkett, Bonnen of Galveston

H.B. No. 2848

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to consultations with contracted physician networks and  
3 physician systems during certain investigations of child abuse and  
4 neglect.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 261, Family Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 261.3017 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 261.3017. CONSULTATION WITH PHYSICIAN NETWORKS AND  
9 SYSTEMS REGARDING CERTAIN MEDICAL CONDITIONS. (a) In this  
10 section:

11 (1) "Network" means the Forensic Assessment Center  
12 Network.

13 (2) "System" means the entities that receive grants  
14 under the Texas Medical Child Abuse Resources and Education System  
15 (MEDCARES) authorized by Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code.

16 (b) Any agreement between the department and the network or  
17 between the Department of State Health Services and the system to  
18 provide assistance in connection with abuse and neglect  
19 investigations conducted by the department must require the network  
20 and the system to have the ability to obtain consultations with  
21 physicians, including radiologists, geneticists, and  
22 endocrinologists, who specialize in identifying unique health  
23 conditions, including:

24 (1) rickets;

1           (2) Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome;  
2           (3) osteogenesis imperfecta;  
3           (4) vitamin D deficiency; and  
4           (5) other similar metabolic bone diseases or  
5 connective tissue disorders.

6           (c) In providing assessments to the department as provided  
7 by Subsection (b), the network and the system must use a blind peer  
8 review process to resolve cases where physicians in the network or  
9 system disagree in the assessment of the causes of a child's  
10 injuries or in the presence of a condition listed under Subsection  
11 (b).

12           SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
13 an agreement entered into or renewed on or after the effective date  
14 of this Act.

15           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.