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H.B. No. 3682

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring the statewide health coordinating council and
3 state health plan to examine and report on the impact of low health
4 literacy on consumers and the health care system.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 104, Health and Safety Code, is amended
7 by adding a Section 104.002 (6) to read as follows:

8 (6) "Health literacy" means the degree to which individuals
9 have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health
10 information and services needed to make appropriate health
11 decisions.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 104, Health and Safety Code, is amended
13 by adding a Section 104.0157 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 104.0157. HEALTH LITERACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a)
15 The statewide health coordinating council shall form an advisory
16 committee on health literacy. The committee must include
17 representatives of interested groups, including the academic
18 community, consumer groups, health plans, pharmacies, and
19 associations of physicians, hospitals, and nurses.

20 (b) The advisory committee shall develop a long-range plan
21 for increasing health literacy in Texas, including identifying key
22 risk factors for low health literacy, examining methods for health
23 care providers, facilities, and others to address health literacy
24 with patients and the public, examine the effectiveness of using

1 quality measures in state health programs to improve health
2 literacy, identifying ways to expand the use of plain language
3 instructions for patients, identifying ways increasing health
4 literacy can improve patient safety, reduce preventable events and
5 increase medication adherence in pursuit of greater
6 cost-effectiveness and better patient outcomes in health care. In
7 developing the long-range plan, the advisory committee shall study
8 the economic impact of low health literacy on state health care
9 programs and on insurance coverage for residents of this state.

10 (c) The advisory committee shall elect a presiding officer.

11 (d) Members of the advisory committee serve without
12 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for the members'
13 travel expenses as provided by Chapter 660, Government Code, and
14 the General Appropriations Act.

15 (e) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
16 size, composition, or duration of the advisory committee.

17 (f) Meetings of the advisory committee under this section
18 are subject to Chapter 551, Government Code.

19 SECTION 3. Chapter 104, Health and Safety Code, is amended
20 by amending Sec. 104.022(e)(1) adding a new Sec. 104.022(f)(2) to
21 read as follows:

22 Sec. 104.022. STATE HEALTH PLAN. (a) Information needed
23 for the development of the state health plan shall be gathered
24 through systematic methods designed to include local, regional, and
25 statewide perspectives.

26 (b) The statewide health coordinating council, in
27 consultation with the commission, shall issue overall directives

1 for the development of the state health plan.

2 (c) The department shall consult with the Department of
3 Aging and Disability Services, the commission, and other
4 appropriate health-related state agencies designated by the
5 governor before performing the duties and functions prescribed by
6 state and federal law regarding the development of the state health
7 plan.

8 (d) The statewide health coordinating council shall provide
9 guidance to the department in developing the state health plan.

10 (e) The state health plan shall be developed and used in
11 accordance with applicable state and federal law. The plan must
12 identify:

13 (1) major statewide health concerns, including the
14 prevalence of low health literacy for health care consumers;

15 (2) the availability and use of current health
16 resources of the state, including resources associated with
17 information technology and state-supported institutions of higher
18 education; and

19 (3) future health service, information technology,
20 and facility needs of the state.

21 (f) The state health plan must:

22 (1) propose strategies for the correction of major
23 deficiencies in the service delivery system;

24 (2) propose strategies for increasing health literacy
25 in pursuit of greater cost-effectiveness and better patient
26 outcomes in health care;

27 [~~2~~](3) propose strategies for incorporating

1 information technology in the service delivery system;

2 ~~[(3)]~~(4) propose strategies for involving
3 state-supported institutions of higher education in providing
4 health services and for coordinating those efforts with health and
5 human services agencies in order to close gaps in services; and

6 ~~[(4)]~~(5) provide direction for the state's legislative
7 and executive decision-making processes to implement the
8 strategies proposed by the plan.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect takes effect September 1,
10 2017.