

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1697

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a multi-stakeholder advisory committee on health literacy.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH LITERACY

Sec. 1001.251. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Advisory committee" means the multi-stakeholder advisory committee on health literacy established under this subchapter.

(2) "Health literacy" means the degree to which an individual has the capacity to obtain, communicate, process, and understand basic health information and services so the person may make appropriate decisions about the treatment, payment, or coverage of health care and navigate complexities in the health care system.

Sec. 1001.252. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH LITERACY. The department shall establish a multi-stakeholder advisory committee on health literacy to study and make recommendations to improve health literacy in this state.

Sec. 1001.253. COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The advisory committee is composed of:

1 (1) three representatives of the department selected
2 by the commissioner;

3 (2) a representative from each of the following
4 agencies, selected by the executive head of the agency:

5 (A) the Health and Human Services Commission;

6 (B) the center for elimination of
7 disproportionality and disparities;

8 (C) the Employees Retirement System of Texas;

9 (D) the Teacher Retirement System of Texas; and

10 (E) each state agency or system of higher
11 education that purchases or provides health care services, as
12 determined by the governor;

13 (3) the following representatives appointed by the
14 governor:

15 (A) three employers domiciled in this state; and

16 (B) three health care consumers; and

17 (4) the following ex officio members:

18 (A) the commissioner of insurance or the
19 commissioner of insurance's designee; and

20 (B) the state Medicaid director of the commission
21 or the director's designee.

22 Sec. 1001.254. PRESIDING OFFICER. The commissioner shall
23 appoint from among the members of the advisory committee a
24 presiding officer and an assistant presiding officer.

25 Sec. 1001.255. VACANCY. A vacancy on the advisory
26 committee shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the
27 original appointment.

1 Sec. 1001.256. MEETINGS. The advisory committee shall meet
2 at the call of the presiding officer.

3 Sec. 1001.257. DUTIES. (a) The advisory committee shall:

4 (1) develop an expanded definition of health literacy
5 that includes a focus on a patient's need for transparent
6 information about the cost and quality of health care and available
7 treatment options;

8 (2) examine the impact of low health literacy on
9 health care cost and quality outcomes; and

10 (3) develop policy recommendations, based on the
11 findings of the advisory committee, to:

12 (A) promote the use of plain language by health
13 care providers;

14 (B) promote the use of simplified enrollment
15 forms;

16 (C) develop health literacy resources for both
17 providers and consumers of health care; and

18 (D) develop programs to support improved health
19 literacy.

20 (b) The advisory committee may consult with and invite
21 participation from groups, organizations, and agencies as needed to
22 accomplish the goals of the committee.

23 Sec. 1001.258. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The department
24 shall provide administrative support for the advisory committee.

25 Sec. 1001.259. REPORT. (a) The advisory committee shall
26 prepare a report that includes the committee's findings and policy
27 recommendations under Section 1001.257.

1 (b) Not later than October 1, 2018, the advisory committee
2 shall submit the report required under this section to the
3 legislature.

4 Sec. 1001.260. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. Members of the
5 advisory committee serve without compensation and may not be
6 reimbursed for travel or other expenses incurred while conducting
7 the business of the advisory committee.

8 Sec. 1001.261. EXPIRATION. The advisory committee is
9 abolished and this subchapter expires September 1, 2019.

10 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2017, the appropriate
11 appointing authorities shall appoint the members of the
12 multi-stakeholder advisory committee on health literacy in
13 accordance with Subchapter J, Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code,
14 as added by this Act.

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