

Amend CSHB 8 (senate committee report) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION _____. Chapter 420, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. STATEWIDE TELEHEALTH CENTER FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Sec. 420.101. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Center" means the statewide telehealth center for sexual assault forensic medical examination.

(2) "Telehealth service" has the meaning assigned by Section 111.001, Occupations Code.

Sec. 420.102. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER. The attorney general shall establish the statewide telehealth center for sexual assault forensic medical examination to expand access to sexual assault nurse examiners for underserved populations.

Sec. 420.103. POWERS OF CENTER. (a) In accordance with other law, the center may facilitate in person or through telecommunications or information technology the provision by a sexual assault nurse examiner of:

(1) training or technical assistance to a sexual assault examiner on:

(A) conducting a forensic medical examination on a survivor; and

(B) the use of telehealth services; and

(2) consultation services, guidance, or technical assistance to a sexual assault examiner during a forensic medical examination on a survivor.

(b) With permission from the facility or entity where a forensic medical examination on a survivor is conducted and to the extent authorized by other law, the center may facilitate the use of telehealth services during a forensic medical examination on a survivor.

(c) The center may deliver other services as requested by the attorney general to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

Sec. 420.104. OPERATION PROTOCOLS REQUIRED. (a) The center and the attorney general shall develop operation protocols

to address compliance with applicable laws and rules governing:

(1) telehealth services;

(2) standards of professional conduct for licensure and practice;

(3) standards of care;

(4) maintenance of records;

(5) technology requirements;

(6) data privacy and security of patient information;

and

(7) the operation of a telehealth center.

(b) The center shall make every effort to ensure the system through which the center operates for the provision of telehealth services meets national standards for interoperability to connect to telehealth systems outside of the center.

Sec. 420.105. AUTHORIZED CONTRACTS. The attorney general may enter into any contract the attorney general considers necessary to implement this subchapter, including a contract to:

(1) develop, implement, maintain, or operate the center;

(2) train or provide technical assistance for health care professionals on conducting forensic medical examinations and the use of telehealth services; or

(3) provide consultation, guidance, or technical assistance for health care professionals using telehealth services during a forensic medical examination.

Sec. 420.106. FUNDING. (a) The legislature may appropriate money to the attorney general to establish the center.

(b) The attorney general may provide funds to the center for:

(1) establishing and maintaining the operations of the center;

(2) training conducted by or through the center;

(3) travel expenses incurred by a sexual assault nurse examiner for:

(A) carrying out the nurse's duties under Section 420.103(a); or

(B) testifying as a witness outside the nurse's

county of residence;

(4) equipment and software applications for the center; and

(5) any other purpose considered appropriate by the attorney general.

Sec. 420.107. CONSULTATION REQUIRED. In implementing this subchapter, the attorney general shall consult with persons with expertise in medicine and forensic medical examinations, a statewide sexual assault coalition, a statewide organization with expertise in the operation of children's advocacy programs, and attorneys with expertise in prosecuting sexual assault offenses.

Sec. 420.108. RULES. The attorney general may adopt rules as necessary to implement this subchapter.