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By:  Klick, Sheffield, Guerra H.B. No. 1848

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prevention of communicable diseases in certain long-term care facilities.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 81.003, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (4-a) and adding Subdivision (4-b) to read as follows:

(4-a)  "Long-term care facility" means a facility licensed or regulated under Chapter 242, 247, or 252.

(4-b)  "Peace officer" has the meaning assigned by Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure. The term includes a sheriff or constable.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter A, Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 81.014 and 81.015 to read as follows:

Sec. 81.014.  LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM. Each long-term care facility's infection prevention and control program must include:

(1)  monitoring of key infectious agents, including multidrug-resistant organisms; and

(2)  procedures for making rapid influenza diagnostic tests available to facility residents.

Sec. 81.015.  ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES. (a) The department shall establish a regional advisory committee in each public health region designated under Section 121.007 to address antimicrobial stewardship in long-term care facilities and to improve antimicrobial stewardship through collaborative action.

(b)  A regional advisory committee established under this section must include:

(1)  physicians;

(2)  directors of nursing or equivalent consultants with long-term care facilities;

(3)  public health officials knowledgeable about antimicrobial stewardship; and

(4)  other interested parties.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.