

By: Ortega

H.B. No. 80

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report regarding shortages in certain health professions.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.06691 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.06691. STUDY ON SHORTAGES IN CERTAIN HEALTH PROFESSIONS. (a) Subject to the availability of funds, the board shall conduct a study in collaboration with the Texas Health Professions Resource Center, the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, and the Texas Demographic Center to identify statewide and regional shortages in health professions, with an emphasis on shortages in doctoral-level training in those health professions. The board shall develop an inventory of existing health science education programs and shall note the enrollment capacity for each of those programs. The study must include an analysis of shortages in the following health professions for which doctoral-level training is offered:

(1) medicine, including a doctor of medicine degree (M.D.) and a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree (D.O.);

(2) nursing, including a doctor of philosophy degree and a doctor of nursing practice degree;

(3) physical therapy, including a doctor of philosophy degree and a doctor of physical therapy degree;

1 (4) occupational therapy, including a doctor of
2 philosophy degree and a doctor of occupational therapy degree;

3 (5) audiology, including a doctor of philosophy degree
4 and a doctor of audiology degree;

5 (6) psychology, including a doctor of philosophy
6 degree and a doctor of psychology degree;

7 (7) pharmacy, including a doctor of philosophy degree
8 and a doctor of pharmacy degree;

9 (8) public health, including a doctor of philosophy
10 degree and a doctor of public health degree; and

11 (9) speech-language pathology, including a doctor of
12 philosophy degree and a doctor of speech-language pathology degree.

13 (b) The board shall make recommendations regarding the
14 establishment of new programs and expansion of existing programs to
15 meet the increased need for health professionals in the state,
16 including in particular the increased need for health professionals
17 with doctoral-level training.

18 (c) Not later than December 1, 2023, the board shall submit
19 to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house
20 of representatives, and each legislative standing committee with
21 primary jurisdiction over higher education the results of its study
22 under this section and recommendations for legislative or other
23 action.

24 (d) The board may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
25 donations from any public or private source to conduct the study,
26 prepare the report, and develop recommendations as required under
27 this section.

1 (e) This section expires January 1, 2024.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.