

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 607

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to continuing education in cultural competence and  
3 implicit bias for certain physicians.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 156, Occupations Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 156.060 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 156.060. CONTINUING EDUCATION IN CULTURAL COMPETENCE  
8 AND IMPLICIT BIAS. (a) In this section:

9 (1) "Cultural competence" means, with respect to  
10 health care, the ability to address the health issues of  
11 individuals from diverse backgrounds effectively by applying  
12 knowledge, empathy, and insight into the views on health that those  
13 backgrounds present.

14 (2) "Implicit bias" means:

15 (A) bias in judgment or behavior that results  
16 from subtle cognitive processes, including implicit attitudes and  
17 implicit stereotypes, that often operate at a level below conscious  
18 awareness and without intentional control; or

19 (B) implicit attitudes and stereotypes that  
20 result in beliefs or simple associations that a person makes  
21 between an object and its evaluation that are automatically  
22 activated by the mere presence, actual or symbolic, of the attitude  
23 object.

24 (b) A physician licensed under this subtitle who submits an

1 application for renewal of a registration permit to practice  
2 medicine and who practices in the area of general practice,  
3 pediatrics, obstetrics, or gynecology shall include continuing  
4 medical education in cultural competence and implicit bias among  
5 the hours of continuing medical education completed for purposes of  
6 rules adopted under Section 156.051(a)(2).

7 (c) The board shall adopt rules to establish the content of  
8 continuing medical education relating to cultural competence and  
9 implicit bias. The board may adopt other rules to implement this  
10 section.

11 SECTION 2. Not later than January 31, 2020, the Texas  
12 Medical Board shall adopt rules required by Section 156.060,  
13 Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

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