

By: Klick

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. (a) Each long-term care facility's infection prevention and control program must include:

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

(2) procedures for communicating the presence of multidrug-resistant organism infections when admitting a resident to or transferring a resident from the facility; and

(3) procedures for making rapid influenza diagnostic

1 tests available to facility residents.

2 (b) Subject to the confidentiality requirements of this
3 chapter, the commission shall ensure that each long-term care
4 facility's infection prevention and control program includes a
5 requirement for the facility to report to the health authority or
6 the department when two or more confirmed cases of influenza occur
7 among facility residents within a 72-hour period.

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

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

16 (1) physicians;

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

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

21 (4) other interested parties.

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