

By: Nelson, et al.

S.B. No. 436

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to statewide initiatives to improve maternal and newborn health for women with opioid use disorder.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 34, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 34.0158 to read as follows:

Sec. 34.0158. OPIOID USE DISORDER MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH INITIATIVES. (a) The department, in collaboration with the task force, shall develop and implement initiatives to:

(1) improve screening procedures to better identify and care for women with opioid use disorder;

(2) improve continuity of care for women with opioid use disorder by ensuring that health care providers refer the women to appropriate treatment and verify the women receive the treatment;

(3) optimize health care provided to pregnant women with opioid use disorder;

(4) optimize health care provided to newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome by encouraging maternal engagement;

(5) increase access to medication-assisted treatment for women with opioid use disorder during pregnancy and the postpartum period; and

(6) prevent opioid use disorder by reducing the number of opioid drugs prescribed before, during, and following a

delivery.

(b) Before implementing the initiatives described by Subsection (a), the department may conduct a limited pilot program in one or more geographic areas of this state to implement the initiatives at hospitals licensed under Chapter 241 with expertise in caring for newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome or related conditions. The pilot program must conclude not later than March 1, 2020. This subsection expires September 1, 2021.

(c) Using existing resources, the department, in collaboration with the task force, shall promote and facilitate the use among health care providers in this state of maternal health informational materials, including tools and procedures related to best practices in maternal health to improve obstetrical care for women with opioid use disorder.

SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2020, the Department of State Health Services shall prepare and submit to the presiding officers of the standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over public health a written report that evaluates the success of the initiatives developed and implemented under Section 34.0158, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, and, if applicable, the pilot program conducted under that section. The report submitted under this section may be submitted with the report required under Section 34.0156, Health and Safety Code.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.