

By: Kolkhorst, Lucio

S.B. No. 982

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to awareness of and access to health care service programs available during a disaster or emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 418.054 and 418.055 to read as follows:

Sec. 418.054. EMERGENCY PLAN FOR SPECIALTY CARE POPULATIONS. The division, in consultation with the Department of State Health Services and local governmental entities that have established emergency management plans, shall develop a plan to increase the capabilities of local emergency shelters in the provision of shelter and care for specialty care populations during a disaster.

Sec. 418.055. ACCESS TO LOCAL VOLUNTEER NETWORKS; VOLUNTEER MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS. (a) The division, in consultation with the Department of State Health Services, shall increase awareness of and encourage local government emergency response teams to utilize services provided by local volunteer networks, including the Medical Reserve Corps, that are available in the area to respond during a disaster or emergency.

(b) The division shall develop a plan to create and manage state-controlled volunteer mobile medical units in each public health region to assist counties that lack access to a volunteer network described by Subsection (a).

1 SECTION 2. The Texas Division of Emergency Management is
2 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the
3 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If
4 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
5 purpose, the division may, but is not required to, implement a
6 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that
7 purpose.

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