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(Guerra)

S.B. No. 1120

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to health professional continuing education to address
communicable and other diseases in border counties.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION TO ADDRESS
COMMUNICABLE AND OTHER DISEASES IN BORDER COUNTIES

Sec. 81.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Community health worker" has the meaning assigned
by Section 48.001.

(2) "Health professional" means an individual whose:

(A) vocation or profession is directly or
indirectly related to the maintenance of the health of another
individual; and

(B) duties require a specified amount of formal
education and may require a special examination, certificate or
license, or membership in a regional or national association.

(3) "HIV" means human immunodeficiency virus.

Sec. 81.452. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter
applies only to a county adjacent to the international border with
Mexico.

Sec. 81.453. HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION.

(a) To the extent funds are available, the department, in

collaboration with health authorities, local health departments, and public health districts, shall provide to community health workers, health professionals, and applicable employees of a local health department or public health district continuing education designed to reduce the incidence of communicable and other diseases in counties described by Section 81.452.

(b) The continuing education described by Subsection (a) may address:

(1) the diagnosis and treatment of communicable and other diseases, including:

(A) tuberculosis, tuberculosis meningitis, multidrug resistant tuberculosis, and tuberculosis and HIV coinfections;

(B) sexually transmitted diseases and HIV; and

(C) liver diseases;

(2) methods for increasing pediatric and adult immunization rates;

(3) strategies for improving health care system operations related to public health, including identifying, monitoring, tracking, and responding to communicable and other diseases occurring in the counties described by Section 81.452; and

(4) any other matter that the department determines will assist health professionals, local health departments, and public health districts with addressing public health challenges existing in those counties.

(c) The department shall identify and assess the accessibility of continuing education resources and programs for

1 local health departments in counties described by Section 81.452
2 that may provide the continuing education described by this
3 section.

4 Sec. 81.454. FUNDING. (a) The department may solicit or
5 accept gifts, grants, or donations to fund health professional
6 continuing education under this subchapter.

7 (b) The department shall collaborate with state and federal
8 agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and private hospitals,
9 institutions of higher education, and the private sector to
10 identify, apply for, and solicit sources of funding for health
11 professional continuing education under this subchapter.

12 SECTION 2. The Department of State Health Services is
13 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the
14 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If
15 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
16 purpose, the department may, but is not required to, implement a
17 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that
18 purpose.

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