

By: Lucio

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

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

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

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

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

14 (B) sexually transmitted diseases and HIV; and

15 (C) liver diseases;

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

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

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

26 Sec. 81.454. FUNDING. (a) The department may solicit or
27 accept gifts, grants, or donations to fund health professional

1 continuing education under this subchapter.

2 (b) The department shall collaborate with state and federal
3 agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and private hospitals,
4 institutions of higher education, and the private sector to
5 identify, apply for, and solicit sources of funding for health
6 professional continuing education under this subchapter.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.