

By: Lucio, Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1122

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a sanitarian recruitment and retention program in border counties for public health purposes.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 121, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 121.0055 to read as follows:

Sec. 121.0055. SANITARIAN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM IN BORDER COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a local health unit, local health department, or public health district that is:

(1) located in a county along the international border with Mexico; and

(2) affiliated with the department under Section 121.005.

(b) To the extent funds are available, the department shall develop a program under which the department:

(1) provides grants to local health units, local health departments, and public health districts to improve recruitment and retention of sanitarians registered under Chapter 1953, Occupations Code; and

(2) expands opportunities for training and registration of sanitarians to improve disease response and prevent foodborne, waterborne, vector-borne, and zoonotic diseases.

(c) The department shall administer the grant program

1 described by Subsection (b) in coordination with local health
2 units, local health departments, public health districts, and
3 appropriate state agencies, federal agencies, nonprofit
4 organizations, public and private hospitals, institutions of
5 higher education, and other private entities.

6 (d) The department may provide a grant under Subsection (b)
7 only in accordance with a contract between the department and the
8 recipient. The contract must include provisions under which the
9 department is granted sufficient control to ensure the public
10 purpose of improved public health is accomplished and the state
11 receives the return benefit.

12 (e) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
13 donations to operate the program established under this section.
14 The department shall coordinate with appropriate state agencies,
15 federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and private
16 hospitals, institutions of higher education, and other private
17 entities in identifying and soliciting funding to implement this
18 section.

19 SECTION 2. The Department of State Health Services is
20 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the
21 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If
22 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
23 purpose, the department may, but is not required to, implement a
24 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that
25 purpose.

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