

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1123

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to border health programs conducted by the Department of
3 State Health Services in collaboration with Mexican and federal
4 authorities.

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

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter F, Chapter 12, Health
7 and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER F. [~~OFFICE OF~~] BORDER HEALTH

9 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 12, Health and Safety
10 Code, is amended by adding Section 12.075 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 12.075. BORDER HEALTH PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO. The
12 department, in collaboration with the Office of State-Federal
13 Relations and appropriate federal agencies, shall for counties
14 located along the international border with Mexico:

15 (1) increase collaboration between local, state, and
16 federal public health agencies in this state and local, state, and
17 federal public health agencies in Mexico;

18 (2) expand vector-borne disease surveillance,
19 testing, and insecticide resistance testing and collaborate with
20 the appropriate Mexican authorities to expand that surveillance and
21 testing in the Mexican states located along the Texas-Mexico
22 border;

23 (3) expand border infectious disease surveillance
24 projects provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control and

1 Prevention;

2 (4) support sister-city binational health councils by
3 establishing binational epidemiology and surveillance teams to
4 exchange information between local governmental agencies in this
5 state and in Mexico;

6 (5) formalize public health surveillance, testing,
7 information sharing, and public health mitigation strategies
8 between local and state health departments, the United States, and
9 the appropriate counterparts in Mexico by:

10 (A) establishing and entering into a memorandum
11 of understanding or other agreement; and

12 (B) establishing appropriate protocols and
13 procedures; and

14 (6) participate in binational sister-city, state, and
15 national conferences on strategies for increasing collaboration,
16 communication, and protocol sharing between jurisdictions impacted
17 by local and international public health concerns.

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