87R11253 MCF-D

By:  Ortega H.B. No. 3146

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report by the Health and Human Services Commission on the continuity of home health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

SECTION 1.  (a) In this Act:

(1)  "COVID-19" means the 2019 novel coronavirus disease.

(2)  "Home health service" has the meaning assigned by Section 142.001, Health and Safety Code.

(3)  "Home health service provider" means a person who provides home health services for compensation.

(b)  The Health and Human Services Commission shall conduct a study to evaluate the impact of:

(1)  COVID-19 on the continuity of home health services provided to patients; and

(2)  the provision of home health services on the spread of COVID-19 among patients receiving the services.

(c)  In conducting the study, the Health and Human Services Commission shall:

(1)  assess the impact of shortages in the number of available home health service providers on the spread of COVID-19;

(2)  assess the impact of the turnover rate for home health service providers on the spread of COVID-19; and

(3)  identify and assess whether any geographic regions of this state have been disproportionately affected by the spread of COVID-19 and the likelihood that the shortages or turnover rate of home health service providers contributed to that spread.

(d)  Not later than September 1, 2022, the Health and Human Services Commission shall prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each standing committee of the senate and house of representatives having jurisdiction over public health a written report on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.