By:  Guillen H.B. No. 4015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Rita Littlefield Chronic Kidney Disease Centralized Resource Center established within the Department of State Health Services.

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

SECTION 1.  Subtitle D, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 83A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 83A. RITA LITTLEFIELD CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE CENTRALIZED RESOURCE CENTER

Sec. 83A.001.  DEFINITION. In this chapter, "resource center" means the Rita Littlefield Chronic Kidney Disease Centralized Resource Center established under this chapter.

Sec. 83A.002.  ESTABLISHMENT OF RESOURCE CENTER. The Rita Littlefield Chronic Kidney Disease Centralized Resource Center is established within the department to serve as a centralized system through which persons may request and obtain information on chronic kidney disease and related illnesses, including each level of kidney disease and end stage renal disease.

Sec. 83A.003.  ADMINISTRATION OF RESOURCE CENTER. (a) The department shall administer the resource center in accordance with this chapter.

(b)  The department shall structure and operate the resource center in a manner that provides a comprehensive approach for readily accessing information on and resources for chronic kidney disease and related illnesses and registering in a clinical registry and trial network, including each level of kidney disease and end stage renal disease. The approach must allow individuals to request, obtain and register and to directly access aggregated information on:

(1)  chronic kidney disease awareness, prevention, and professional education opportunities, including:

(A)  awareness campaigns for chronic kidney disease and related illnesses;

(B)  information on accessing free screenings for chronic kidney disease and related illnesses;

(C)  professional resources and continuing education opportunities for health care providers who treat patients with chronic kidney disease or related illnesses;

(D)  establish and maintain a kidney Health Clinical Registry and Trial Network so that patients and extended family members with end stage renal disease or chronic kidney disease can register themselves to receive educational information and opportunities to engage in clinical trials modified to their chronic kidney disease stage; and

(E)  information on chronic kidney disease partners, including chronic kidney disease patient advocates, dialysis professionals, health care providers, researchers, manufacturers, and other appropriate persons;

(2)  patient and family resources, including:

(A)  educational resources containing general and specific chronic kidney disease information;

(B)  resources containing information on chronic kidney disease prevention and early detection of chronic kidney disease and related illnesses;

(C)  nutritional and metabolism information for individuals with chronic kidney disease and related illnesses;

(D)  resources appropriately tailored to provide information on chronic kidney disease and related illnesses to individuals within groups that experience health disparities, including racial minorities;

(E)  directories for physicians who specialize in kidney health; and

(F)  programs through which an individual may obtain a kidney donation or be placed on a kidney donation list; and

(3)  resources on chronic kidney disease treatment options and modalities, including:

(A)  kidney donations and kidney transplantation initiatives;

(B)  deceased and living organ donation programs and initiatives;

(C)  organ recipient registries;

(D)  treatment options for chronic kidney disease and end stage renal disease;

(E)  financial assistance for obtaining treatment for chronic kidney disease or related illnesses; and

(F)  options for receiving treatment for chronic kidney disease or related illnesses through the use of telehealth or telemedicine medical services, as defined by Section 111.001, Occupations Code.

(c)  The department shall ensure information provided by the resource center is available in both English and Spanish.

Sec. 83A.004.  INTERNET WEBSITE. In collaboration with the Chronic Kidney Disease Task Force established under Chapter 83, the department shall establish and the resource center shall maintain an Internet website through which resource center employees and members of the public may directly communicate and exchange information on chronic kidney disease and related illnesses.

Sec. 83A.005.  GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source to implement this chapter.

SECTION 2.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Department of State Health Services shall establish the Rita Littlefield Chronic Kidney Disease Centralized Resource Center required by Chapter 83A, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.