87R9288 MCF-F

By:  Miles S.B. No. 1353

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the biennial legislative report on immunizations issued by the Department of State Health Services.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 161.0074(c), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c)  The report must:

(1)  include the current immunization rates by geographic region of the state, where available;

(2)  focus on the geographic regions of the state with immunization rates below the state average for preschool children;

(3)  describe the approaches identified to increase immunization rates in underserved areas and the estimated cost for each;

(4)  identify changes to department procedures needed to increase immunization rates;

(5)  identify the services provided under and provisions of contracts entered into by the department to increase immunization rates in underserved areas;

(6)  identify performance measures used in contracts described by Subdivision (5);

(7)  include the number and type of exemptions used in the past year;

(8)  include the number of complaints received by the department related to the department's failure to comply with requests for exclusion of individuals from the registry;

(9)  identify all reported incidents of discrimination for requesting exclusion from the registry or for using an exemption for a required immunization;

(10)  include department recommendations about the best way to use, and communicate with, local registries in the state; [~~and~~]

(11)  include ways to increase provider participation in the registry;

(12)  include information by county on the immunization accessibility of residents by age, race, and geographic location, provided the information does not personally identify any individual;

(13)  identify and assess disparities in access to immunizations by age, race, and geographic location, including an assessment of immunization accessibility in each county;

(14)  include the estimated economic benefit to this state of reducing disparities in immunization accessibility;

(15)  include recommendations for reducing disparities in immunization accessibility; and

(16)  include recommendations for legislative action to increase immunization rates.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.