87R9837 BEE-F

By:  Blanco S.B. No. 1705

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing education requirements for physicians and nurses regarding human trafficking.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 156.060, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 156.060.  CONTINUING EDUCATION REGARDING THE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS [~~IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION~~]. (a) This section applies only to a physician who designates a direct patient care practice on an application for renewal of a registration permit.

(b)  A physician licensed under this subtitle who submits an application for renewal of a registration permit [~~and who designates a direct patient care practice~~] must complete at least one hour of continuing medical education approved by the board regarding the identification and assistance of trafficked persons [~~, as part of the hours of continuing medical education required for compliance with Section 156.051(a)(2), a human trafficking prevention course approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission under Section 116.002~~].

(c) [~~(b)~~]  The hours [~~board shall designate the human trafficking prevention course~~] required by Subsection (b):

(1)  shall be designated by the board [~~(a)~~] as [~~a~~] medical ethics or professional responsibility education; and

(2)  may be counted toward the hours of [~~course for purposes of complying with~~] continuing medical education required by Section 156.051(a)(2).

(d)  The board shall:

(1)  approve courses that may be completed to satisfy the requirement of Subsection (b), including at least one course that is available without charge; and

(2)  maintain a list of approved courses on the board's Internet website.

(e)  In approving courses as required by Subsection (d)(1), the board shall consider for approval training courses conducted by health care facilities.

(f) [~~(c)~~]  The board shall adopt rules to implement this section, including a rule establishing a procedure to send a timely reminder to a physician of the continuing medical education requirement under this section.

(g)  A physician may satisfy the requirement of Subsection (b) by completing at least one hour of a training course approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission under Section 116.002. This subsection expires September 1, 2023.

SECTION 2.  Section 301.308, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 301.308.  CONTINUING EDUCATION REGARDING THE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS [~~IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION~~]. (a) As part of a continuing competency program under Section 301.303, a license holder who provides direct patient care shall complete in each renewal period at least one hour of continuing education approved by the board regarding the identification and assistance of trafficked persons [~~a human trafficking prevention course approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission under Section 116.002~~].

(b)  The board shall:

(1)  approve courses that may be completed to satisfy the requirement of Subsection (a), including at least one course that is available without charge; and

(2)  maintain a list of approved courses on the board's Internet website.

(c)  In approving courses as required by Subsection (b)(1), the board shall consider for approval training courses conducted by health care facilities.

(c-1)  A license holder may satisfy the requirement of Subsection (a) by completing at least one hour of a training course approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission under Section 116.002. This subsection expires September 1, 2023.

(d)  The board shall adopt rules to implement this section, including a rule establishing a procedure to send a timely reminder to a license holder of the continuing education requirement under this section.

SECTION 3.  Sections 156.060 and 301.308, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to an application for renewal of a registration permit to practice medicine or a license to practice nursing submitted on or after the effective date of this Act. A renewal application submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.