

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 194

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing education in cultural competence and implicit bias for certain physicians.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 156, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 156.061 to read as follows:

Sec. 156.061. CONTINUING EDUCATION IN CULTURAL COMPETENCE AND IMPLICIT BIAS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Cultural competence" means, with respect to health care, the ability to address the health issues of individuals from diverse backgrounds effectively by applying knowledge, empathy, and insight into the views on health that those backgrounds present.

(2) "Implicit bias" means:

(A) bias in judgment or behavior that results from subtle cognitive processes, including implicit attitudes and implicit stereotypes, that often operate at a level below conscious awareness and without intentional control; or

(B) implicit attitudes and stereotypes that result in beliefs or simple associations that a person makes between an object and its evaluation that are automatically activated by the mere presence, actual or symbolic, of the attitude object.

(b) A physician licensed under this subtitle who submits an

1 application for renewal of a registration permit to practice  
2 medicine and who practices in the area of general practice,  
3 pediatrics, obstetrics, or gynecology shall include continuing  
4 medical education in cultural competence and implicit bias among  
5 the hours of continuing medical education completed for purposes of  
6 rules adopted under Section 156.051(a)(2).

7 (c) The board shall adopt rules to establish the content of  
8 continuing medical education relating to cultural competence and  
9 implicit bias. The board may adopt other rules to implement this  
10 section.

11 SECTION 2. Not later than January 31, 2022, the Texas  
12 Medical Board shall adopt rules required by Section 156.061,  
13 Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

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