

By: Thierry

H.B. No. 202

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to renaming the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities to the office of health equity and to the duties of that office.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 107A, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 107A. OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY [~~CENTER FOR ELIMINATION OF DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITIES~~]

Sec. 107A.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "office" means the office of health equity established under this chapter.

Sec. 107A.002. OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY [~~107A.001. CENTER FOR ELIMINATION OF DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITIES~~]. (a) The executive commissioner shall maintain an office of health equity within [~~a center for elimination of disproportionality and disparities in~~] the commission to:

(1) assume a leadership role in working or contracting with state and federal agencies, universities, private interest groups, communities, foundations, and offices of minority health to develop health initiatives to decrease or eliminate health and health access disparities [~~among racial, multicultural, disadvantaged, ethnic, and regional populations, including appropriate language services,~~] and improve health equity across the state, including rural and urban communities, regardless of a

1 person's race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status; and

2 (2) maximize use of existing resources without
3 duplicating existing efforts.

4 (b) The health initiatives developed under Subsection (a)
5 must include initiatives to increase access to appropriate language
6 services in health care settings.

7 Sec. 107A.003 [~~107A.002~~]. POWERS OF OFFICE [~~CENTER~~]. The
8 office [~~center~~] may:

9 (1) provide a central information and referral source,
10 including a clearinghouse for health disparities information, and
11 serve as the primary state resource in coordinating, planning, and
12 advocating access to health care services to eliminate health
13 disparities in this state;

14 (2) coordinate conferences and other training
15 opportunities to increase skills among state agencies and
16 government staff in management and in the appreciation of cultural
17 diversity;

18 (3) pursue and administer grant funds for innovative
19 projects for communities, groups, and individuals;

20 (4) provide recommendations and training in improving
21 minority recruitment in state agencies;

22 (5) publicize information regarding health
23 disparities and minority health issues through the use of the
24 media;

25 (6) network with existing minority organizations,
26 community-based health groups, and statewide health coalitions;

27 (7) solicit, receive, and spend grants, gifts, and

1 donations from public and private sources; and

2 (8) contract with public and private entities in the
3 performance of its responsibilities.

4 Sec. 107A.004 [~~107A.003~~]. FUNDING. The commission may
5 distribute to the office [~~center~~] unobligated and unexpended
6 appropriations to be used to carry out the office's [~~its~~] powers and
7 perform the office's duties.

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