

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 727

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a border public health initiative by the Department of State Health Services.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 65 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 65. BORDER PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE

Sec. 65.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Border county" means a county adjacent to this state's international border with Mexico.

(2) "Promotora" or "community health worker" has the meaning assigned by Section 48.001.

Sec. 65.0002. BORDER PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVE. (a) The department shall develop an initiative to reduce the adverse health impacts of diabetes, hypertension, and obesity for adults and children in border counties. The initiative must promote:

(1) educational resources designed to prevent those conditions;

(2) screenings of persons at risk for those conditions; and

(3) referrals to and treatment by health care providers for those conditions.

(b) In developing the border public health initiative, the department may consult and collaborate with:

- 1           (1) other health and human services agencies;
- 2           (2) other appropriate state or federal agencies;
- 3           (3) health science centers and medical schools; and
- 4           (4) public and private health care providers and
- 5 hospitals.

6           Sec. 65.0003. OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS. To implement the border  
7 public health initiative described by Section 65.0002, the  
8 department shall conduct bilingual, culturally appropriate  
9 outreach campaigns in consultation and collaboration with  
10 appropriate individuals and entities that may include:

- 11           (1) promotoras and community health workers;
- 12           (2) academic centers located in border counties;
- 13           (3) nonprofit organizations;
- 14           (4) public schools;
- 15           (5) public and private health care providers and
- 16 hospitals;
- 17           (6) worksite wellness programs;
- 18           (7) local business and health care providers that
- 19 provide early detection of prediabetes, prehypertension, and
- 20 obesity; and
- 21           (8) other local entities, as the department determines
- 22 appropriate.

23           Sec. 65.0004. REPORT. Not later than January 1, 2025, the  
24 department shall prepare and electronically submit to the  
25 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
26 and the legislature a report describing:

- 27           (1) health outcomes and health care savings resulting

1 from prevention, screenings, and treatment of chronic diseases  
2 under the border public health initiative; and

3 (2) other relevant findings, as determined by the  
4 department, resulting from the border public health initiative.

5 Sec. 65.0005. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires December  
6 31, 2033.

7 SECTION 2. The Department of State Health Services is  
8 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the  
9 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If  
10 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
11 purpose, the department may, but is not required to, implement a  
12 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that  
13 purpose.

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