

By: Campos

H.B. No. 1222

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the compilation and publication of information on  
3 confirmed or probable cases of reportable diseases.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 81.047, Health and Safety Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 81.047. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS; COMPILATION AND  
8 PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN REPORT INFORMATION. (a) Subject to the  
9 confidentiality requirements of this chapter, the department shall  
10 require epidemiological reports of disease outbreaks and of  
11 individual cases of disease suspected or known to be of importance  
12 to the public health. The department shall evaluate the reports to  
13 determine the trends involved and the nature and magnitude of the  
14 hazards.

15 (b) The department shall, based on the information included  
16 in the epidemiological reports required by Subsection (a), compile,  
17 aggregate, and publish on the department's Internet website  
18 information on the number of confirmed or probable cases of each  
19 reportable disease included in the reports. The case information  
20 must be:

21 (1) aggregated based on:  
22 (A) the reportable disease;  
23 (B) the date each case of a reportable disease is  
24 reported to the department; and

1           (C) the probable source of infection for each  
2 case of a reportable disease; and

3           (2) updated regularly as determined by the  
4 commissioner.

5           (c) During a public health disaster declared for a  
6 reportable disease under this chapter, the department shall, based  
7 on the information included in the epidemiological reports required  
8 by Subsection (a), compile, aggregate, and publish on the  
9 department's Internet website information on the number of  
10 confirmed or probable cases of the disease, including the number of  
11 deaths caused by or suspected of being caused by the disease. The  
12 case information must be:

13           (1) aggregated based on:

14           (A) the date each case of the disease is reported  
15 to the department;

16           (B) the probable source of infection for each  
17 case of the disease; and

18           (C) the date of each death and total number of  
19 deaths caused by or suspected of being caused by the disease; and

20           (2) updated daily.

21           (d) In publishing information required under this section,  
22 the department may not disclose a patient's personally identifiable  
23 information or information that is confidential under state or  
24 federal law.

25           SECTION 2. Section 81.047, Health and Safety Code, as  
26 amended by this Act, applies only to case information submitted on  
27 or after the effective date of this Act.

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