

By: Oliverson

H.B. No. 2096

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to an assessment of certain public health data reporting
3 systems and implementation of public health data reporting
4 requirements.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 81, Health and Safety
7 Code, is amended by adding Section 81.0445 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 81.0445. PUBLIC HEALTH DATA STUDY AND REPORTING
9 REQUIREMENTS. (a) For purposes of this section, "coronavirus
10 disease public health emergency" applies to the period:

11 (1) beginning on January 31, 2020, the date the United
12 States secretary of health and human services declared a public
13 health emergency under Section 319, Public Health Service Act (42
14 U.S.C. Section 247d), with respect to the coronavirus disease
15 (COVID-19); and

16 (2) ending on the earlier of:

17 (A) the date the public health emergency
18 described by Subdivision (1) ends; or

19 (B) January 1, 2023.

20 (b) The department shall:

21 (1) conduct a study on:

22 (A) the system used by this state for reporting
23 public health data to the federal government during the coronavirus
24 disease public health emergency; and

1 (B) the system used by persons required to report
2 under this chapter, including local health authorities, for
3 reporting public health data to this state during the coronavirus
4 public health emergency; and

5 (2) conduct a comparative analysis of the systems
6 described by Subdivision (1) and generally recognized and accepted
7 methods for public health data reporting.

8 (c) Based on the results of the study and analysis conducted
9 under Subsection (b), the department, using evidence-based,
10 standardized data reporting methods, shall:

11 (1) develop a uniform set of public health data
12 reporting requirements for this state, local health authorities,
13 and any other persons required to report under this chapter, to use
14 during a public health disaster declared under this chapter or a
15 state of disaster declared under Chapter 418, Government Code; and

16 (2) periodically update the reporting requirements as
17 necessary to address advancements in technology and
18 communications.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act, the Department of State Health Services shall conduct
21 the study and analysis required by Section 81.0445, Health and
22 Safety Code, as added by this Act, and develop the public health
23 data reporting requirements under that section.

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