

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 3161

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of community paramedicine programs to coordinate health care services and improve health care provision.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 9, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 776 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 776. COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM

Sec. 776.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Emergency medical services personnel" has the meaning assigned by Section 773.003.

(2) "ET3 program" means the federal Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport program of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(3) "Executive commissioner" means the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

(4) "Paramedicine program" means a collaborative program between health care practitioners, health care facilities, and emergency medical services personnel established under this chapter.

Sec. 776.002. PROGRAM PURPOSE. The purpose of a paramedicine program is to create collaborative relationships between health care practitioners, health care facilities, and emergency medical services personnel to improve patient care access and management, patient health outcomes, cost-effectiveness in the

1 use of health care services, and community population health.

2 Sec. 776.003. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. (a) A municipality
3 or county may establish a paramedicine program under this chapter.

4 (b) The municipality or county may structure the program in
5 a manner to qualify for federal funding under the ET3 program.

6 Sec. 776.004. COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS. (a) Under a
7 paramedicine program, health care practitioners, health care
8 facilities, and emergency medical services personnel may establish
9 partnerships and develop and implement a plan for providing
10 collaborative health services to at-risk individuals living in the
11 community, including providing services to:

12 (1) prevent:

13 (A) emergencies;

14 (B) avoidable use of emergency rooms;

15 (C) avoidable transport; and

16 (D) potentially avoidable hospital admissions
17 and readmissions; and

18 (2) provide:

19 (A) health care services; and

20 (B) behavioral health services to individuals
21 with behavioral health conditions or developmental or intellectual
22 disabilities.

23 (b) The plan must focus on the delivery of health care
24 services to patients with chronic conditions or limited mobility.

25 (c) The plan may:

26 (1) include orientation and collaborative training
27 for health care providers and emergency medical services personnel

1 participating in the plan; and

2 (2) incorporate health benefit plan issuers and
3 service organizations as considered necessary to implement a
4 successful plan.

5 Sec. 776.005. RULES. The executive commissioner shall
6 adopt rules to implement this chapter.

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