

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 3581

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishing a coordinated system for the dispatch,
3 triage, transport, and transfer of patients in certain trauma
4 service area regional advisory councils; providing rulemaking
5 authority.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 773, Health and Safety
8 Code, is amended by adding Section 773.1141 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 773.1141. INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES RELATED TO
10 CERTAIN PATIENT TRANSFERS AND RELATED SERVICES. (a) This section
11 applies only to a trauma service area regional advisory council
12 that includes:

13 (1) at least one county located on the international
14 border of this state; and

15 (2) at least one county adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico.

16 (b) For each trauma service area regional advisory council
17 to which this section applies, the department, by January 1, 2022,
18 by rule shall:

19 (1) require the council to create an advisory
20 committee composed of equally represented designated trauma
21 hospital members located within the geographic boundaries of the
22 council to:

23 (A) develop guidelines for patient transfers;

24 and

1 (B) periodically review patient transfers to
2 ensure compliance with applicable guidelines;

3 (2) for the purpose of ensuring that patients located
4 in the council's geographic boundaries receive health care at the
5 closest and most appropriate health care facility, require the
6 council to implement a centralized system to assist the council in
7 the dispatch, triage, transport, and transfer of patients; and

8 (3) require each hospital and emergency services
9 provider operating within the geographic boundaries of the council
10 to collect and report to the council data on patients transferred
11 outside the geographic boundaries of the council.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.