

By: Schwertner, et al.

S.B. No. 984

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to public health disaster and public health emergency preparedness and response, including the operation of the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 81.027 and 81.028 to read as follows:

Sec. 81.027. TRAUMA SERVICE AREA REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING. (a) Each trauma service area regional advisory council shall collect from each hospital located in the regional advisory council's trauma service area the de-identified health care data, including demographic data, necessary for this state and the area to effectively plan for and respond to public health disasters and communicable or infectious disease emergencies in this state. The executive commissioner by rule shall prescribe the data each council must collect under this subsection.

(b) A trauma service area regional advisory council shall:

(1) provide the data collected under Subsection (a) to the department; and

(2) make the data publicly available by:

(A) posting the data on the regional advisory council's Internet website; or

1           (B) if the regional advisory council does not  
2 maintain an Internet website, providing the data in writing on  
3 request.

4           (c) Information collected or maintained under this section  
5 that identifies a patient is confidential and exempt from  
6 disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

7           Sec. 81.028. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT RESERVES. (a)  
8 In this section, "personal protective equipment" means specialized  
9 clothing or equipment worn for protection against communicable and  
10 other infectious diseases.

11           (b) The department shall, if money is appropriated to the  
12 department for the purposes of this section, establish a reserve,  
13 or regional reserves, of personal protective equipment to support a  
14 response to public health disasters and communicable or infectious  
15 disease emergencies in this state.

16           SECTION 2. Section 81.404(a), Health and Safety Code, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18           (a) The governor may appoint members of the task force as  
19 necessary, including members from relevant state agencies, members  
20 with expertise in infectious diseases and other issues involved in  
21 the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, and members  
22 from institutions of higher education in this state. The governor  
23 shall appoint to the task force:

24           (1) at least one member who is a county judge of a  
25 county with a population of less than 100,000;

26           (2) at least one member who is a county judge of a  
27 county with a population of 100,000 or more;

1 (3) at least one member who is a representative of a  
2 local health authority serving a rural area;

3 (4) at least one member who is a representative of a  
4 local health authority serving an urban area;

5 (5) at least one member who is a licensed nurse; ~~and~~

6 (6) at least one member who is emergency medical  
7 services personnel, as defined by Section [773.003](#); and

8 (7) at least one member who is an epidemiologist.

9 SECTION 3. Section [81.406](#)(a), Health and Safety Code, is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (a) The task force shall meet:

12 (1) at least once each year at a location determined by  
13 the task force director; and

14 (2) at other times and locations as determined by the  
15 task force director ~~[of the task force]~~.

16 SECTION 4. Not later than January 1, 2022, the governor  
17 shall appoint the member of the Task Force on Infectious Disease  
18 Preparedness and Response as required by Section [81.404](#)(a)(7),  
19 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

20 SECTION 5. The Department of State Health Services is  
21 required to implement Section [81.028](#), Health and Safety Code, as  
22 added by this Act, only if the legislature appropriates money  
23 specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not  
24 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the department  
25 may, but is not required to, implement Section [81.028](#) using other  
26 appropriations available for that purpose.

27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.