

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1050

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to health professional continuing education to address communicable and other diseases in border counties.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER K. HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION TO ADDRESS COMMUNICABLE AND OTHER DISEASES IN BORDER COUNTIES

Sec. 81.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Community health worker" has the meaning assigned by Section 48.001.

(2) "Health professional" means an individual whose:

(A) vocation or profession is directly or indirectly related to the maintenance of the health of another individual; and

(B) duties require a specified amount of formal education and may require a special examination, certificate or license, or membership in a regional or national association.

(3) "HIV" means human immunodeficiency virus.

Sec. 81.452. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter applies only to a county adjacent to the international border with Mexico.

Sec. 81.453. HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION. (a) To the extent funds are available, the department, in collaboration

1 with health authorities, local health departments, and public  
2 health districts, shall provide continuing education designed to  
3 reduce the incidence of communicable and other diseases in counties  
4 described by Section 81.452 to:

- 5 (1) community health workers;
- 6 (2) health professionals; and
- 7 (3) other employees of a local health department or  
8 public health district who would benefit from the education.

9 (b) The continuing education may address:

10 (1) the diagnosis and treatment of communicable and  
11 other diseases, including:

12 (A) tuberculosis, tuberculosis meningitis,  
13 multidrug resistant tuberculosis, and tuberculosis and HIV  
14 coinfections;

15 (B) sexually transmitted diseases and HIV; and

16 (C) liver diseases;

17 (2) methods for increasing pediatric and adult  
18 immunization rates;

19 (3) strategies for improving health care system  
20 operations related to public health, including identifying,  
21 monitoring, tracking, and responding to communicable and other  
22 diseases occurring in the counties described by Section 81.452; and

23 (4) any other matter the department determines will  
24 assist health professionals, local health departments, and public  
25 health districts with addressing public health challenges in those  
26 counties.

27 (c) The department shall identify and assess the

1 accessibility of continuing education resources and programs for  
2 local health departments in counties described by Section 81.452  
3 that may provide the continuing education described by this  
4 section.

5 Sec. 81.454. FUNDING. (a) The department may solicit or  
6 accept gifts, grants, or donations to fund health professional  
7 continuing education under this subchapter.

8 (b) The department shall collaborate with state and federal  
9 agencies, nonprofit organizations, public and private hospitals,  
10 institutions of higher education, and other relevant private sector  
11 organizations to identify, apply for, and solicit sources of  
12 funding for health professional continuing education under this  
13 subchapter.

14 SECTION 2. The Department of State Health Services is  
15 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the  
16 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If  
17 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
18 purpose, the department may, but is not required to, implement a  
19 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that  
20 purpose.

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