

By: Blanco

S.B. No. 1705

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing education requirements for physicians and nurses regarding human trafficking.

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

SECTION 1. Section 156.060, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 156.060. CONTINUING EDUCATION REGARDING THE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS [~~IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION~~]. (a) This section applies only to a physician who designates a direct patient care practice on an application for renewal of a registration permit.

(b) A physician licensed under this subtitle who submits an application for renewal of a registration permit [~~and who designates a direct patient care practice~~] must complete at least one hour of continuing medical education approved by the board regarding the identification and assistance of trafficked persons [~~, as part of the hours of continuing medical education required for compliance with Section 156.051(a)(2), a human trafficking prevention course approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission under Section 116.002~~].

(c) [~~(b)~~] The hours [~~board shall designate the human trafficking prevention course~~] required by Subsection (b):

(1) shall be designated by the board [~~(a)~~] as [a] medical ethics or professional responsibility education; and

1 (2) may be counted toward the hours of [course for
2 purposes of complying with] continuing medical education required
3 by Section 156.051(a)(2).

4 (d) The board shall:

5 (1) approve courses that may be completed to satisfy
6 the requirement of Subsection (b), including at least one course
7 that is available without charge; and

8 (2) maintain a list of approved courses on the board's
9 Internet website.

10 (e) In approving courses as required by Subsection (d)(1),
11 the board shall consider for approval training courses conducted by
12 health care facilities.

13 (f) [~~(e)~~] The board shall adopt rules to implement this
14 section, including a rule establishing a procedure to send a timely
15 reminder to a physician of the continuing medical education
16 requirement under this section.

17 (g) A physician may satisfy the requirement of Subsection
18 (b) by completing at least one hour of a training course approved by
19 the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services
20 Commission under Section 116.002. This subsection expires
21 September 1, 2023.

22 SECTION 2. Section 301.308, Occupations Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Sec. 301.308. CONTINUING EDUCATION REGARDING THE
25 IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTANCE OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS [~~IN HUMAN~~
26 ~~TRAFFICKING PREVENTION~~]. (a) As part of a continuing competency
27 program under Section 301.303, a license holder who provides direct

1 patient care shall complete in each renewal period at least one hour
2 of continuing education approved by the board regarding the
3 identification and assistance of trafficked persons [~~a human~~
4 ~~trafficking prevention course approved by the executive~~
5 ~~commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission under~~
6 ~~Section 116.002~~].

7 (b) The board shall:

8 (1) approve courses that may be completed to satisfy
9 the requirement of Subsection (a), including at least one course
10 that is available without charge; and

11 (2) maintain a list of approved courses on the board's
12 Internet website.

13 (c) In approving courses as required by Subsection (b)(1),
14 the board shall consider for approval training courses conducted by
15 health care facilities.

16 (c-1) A license holder may satisfy the requirement of
17 Subsection (a) by completing at least one hour of a training course
18 approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
19 Services Commission under Section 116.002. This subsection expires
20 September 1, 2023.

21 (d) The board shall adopt rules to implement this section,
22 including a rule establishing a procedure to send a timely reminder
23 to a license holder of the continuing education requirement under
24 this section.

25 SECTION 3. Sections 156.060 and 301.308, Occupations Code,
26 as amended by this Act, apply only to an application for renewal of
27 a registration permit to practice medicine or a license to practice

1 nursing submitted on or after the effective date of this Act. A
2 renewal application submitted before the effective date of this Act
3 is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was
4 submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that
5 purpose.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.