88R2903 MCF-D

By:  Hall S.B. No. 1197

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to hospital reporting requirements regarding suspected child abuse, exploitation, or neglect; authorizing an administrative penalty.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter M to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M. CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, OR NEGLECT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 241.401.  SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, OR NEGLECT REPORTS. (a) In this section, "abuse," "exploitation," and "neglect" have the meanings assigned by Section 261.001, Family Code.

(b)  Not later than the fifth day of each month, a hospital shall submit a report to the commission containing the following information:

(1)  the number of reports made during the preceding month by the hospital or an agent or employee of the hospital to the Department of Family and Protective Services under Chapter 261, Family Code, regarding alleged or suspected abuse, exploitation, or neglect of a child;

(2)  whether the hospital informed the parent, legal guardian, managing conservator, or possessory conservator of a child that is the subject of a report described by Subdivision (1) that the parent, legal guardian, managing conservator, or possessory conservator may obtain an alternative opinion regarding the alleged or suspected abuse, exploitation, or neglect of the child; and

(3)  any code the hospital used for purposes of diagnosing or treating a child that is the subject of a report described by Subdivision (1), including, as applicable, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code, the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) code, the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code, or another common identifier.

(c)  A hospital shall submit the report required under Subsection (b) in the form and manner prescribed by commission rule.

Sec. 241.402.  ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. (a) The commission may impose an administrative penalty on a hospital that violates Section 241.401.

(b)  Before imposing an administrative penalty on a hospital under Subsection (a), the commission must provide written notice to the hospital that:

(1)  the hospital is in violation of Section 241.401 because the hospital has failed to timely submit a report required under that section;

(2)  the hospital has 15 days to submit the required report; and

(3)  if the hospital does not submit the required report within 15 days of receiving notice of the violation, the hospital will be subject to an administrative penalty for each day the violation continues.

(c)  The commission shall set an administrative penalty imposed under this section in an amount sufficient to ensure compliance by hospitals with Section 241.401, subject to the limitations prescribed by Subsection (d).

(d)  For a hospital with one of the following total gross revenues as reported to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or to another entity designated by commission rule in the year preceding the year in which an administrative penalty is imposed under this section, the penalty imposed by the commission may not exceed:

(1)  $10 for each day the hospital violates Section 241.401, beginning on the 16th day after the date the hospital received notice from the commission, if the hospital's total gross revenue is less than $10,000,000;

(2)  $100 for each day the hospital violates Section 241.401, beginning on the 16th day after the date the hospital received notice from the commission, if the hospital's total gross revenue is $10,000,000 or more and less than $100,000,000; and

(3)  $1,000 for each day the hospital violates Section 241.401, beginning on the 16th day after the date the hospital received notice from the commission, if the hospital's total gross revenue is $100,000,000 or more.

(e)  Each day a violation continues is considered a separate violation.

(f)  Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an administrative penalty ceases to be incurred on the date a violation is corrected.

(g)  In determining the amount of an administrative penalty to impose on a hospital under this section, the commission shall consider:

(1)  previous violations by the hospital;

(2)  the seriousness of the violation;

(3)  the demonstrated good faith of the hospital; and

(4)  any other matters as justice may require.

(h)  An administrative penalty collected under this section shall be deposited to the credit of an account in the general revenue fund administered by the commission. Money in the account may be appropriated only to the commission.

Sec. 241.403.  SUMMARY REPORT. The commission shall submit a written quarterly report to the legislature summarizing the reports submitted to the commission under Section 241.401 during the preceding quarter.

Sec. 241.404.  RULES. The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this subchapter.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.