

By: Smith

H.B. No. 454

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing education requirements for physicians regarding the identification and assistance of trafficked persons.

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 under this section regarding the identification and assistance of trafficked persons:

(1) in the first renewal period following the issuance of the physician's initial registration permit under this chapter; and

(2) if the board approves more than one course under Subsection (d), at least once in every third renewal period following the renewal period described by Subdivision (1) [~~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) must be designated by the board [(a)] as [a] medical ethics or professional responsibility education; and

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

(d) [(c)] The board shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules to establish the content of and approval requirements for continuing medical education relating to the identification and assistance of trafficked persons. In adopting rules, the board shall seek input from affected parties and review relevant courses, including courses that have been approved in other states. Rules adopted under this section must provide for the identification and approval of accredited continuing medical education courses that represent an appropriate spectrum of relevant information relating to the identification and assistance of trafficked persons.

(e) A physician may satisfy the requirement of Subsection (b)(1) by completing at least one hour of a training course approved by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission under Section 116.002. This subsection expires September 1, 2025.

(f) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), a physician who on September 1, 2023, holds a license to practice medicine under this

1 subtitle shall complete at least one hour of continuing medical
2 education under this section regarding the identification and
3 assistance of trafficked persons. This subsection expires January
4 1, 2024.

5 SECTION 2. Section [156.060](#), Occupations Code, as amended by
6 this Act, applies only to an application for renewal of a
7 registration permit to practice medicine submitted on or after the
8 effective date of this Act. A renewal application submitted before
9 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on
10 the date the application was submitted, and the former law is
11 continued in effect for that purpose.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.