

By: Orr

H.B. No. 3976

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Women's Health Care Consortium.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle E, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 114 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 114. TEXAS WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE CONSORTIUM

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 114.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Consortium" means the Texas Women's Health Care Consortium.

(2) "Executive committee" means the executive committee of the consortium.

(3) "Participating health-related institution of higher education" means an institution listed in Section 114.052(1).

SUBCHAPTER B. CONSORTIUM

Sec. 114.051. ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE. The Texas Women's Health Care Consortium is established to:

(1) provide preventative health care services for women, including cancer screenings, reproductive health care, and immunizations, through telehealth or any other means;

(2) provide perinatal and postpartum care services for women by telehealth or any other means, including telemonitoring;

1           (3) leverage the expertise and capacity of the  
2 participating health-related institutions of higher education to  
3 address urgent women's health challenges and improve the women's  
4 health care system in this state; and

5           (4) enhance the state's ability to address women's  
6 health care needs through collaboration of the participating  
7 health-related institutions.

8           Sec. 114.052. CONSORTIUM COMPOSITION. The consortium is  
9 composed of:

10           (1) the following health-related institutions of  
11 higher education:

12                   (A) Baylor College of Medicine;

13                   (B) Texas A&M University System Health Science  
14 Center;

15                   (C) Texas Tech University Health Sciences  
16 Center;

17                   (D) Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
18 at El Paso;

19                   (E) University of North Texas Health Science  
20 Center at Fort Worth;

21                   (F) the Dell Medical School at The University of  
22 Texas at Austin;

23                   (G) The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer  
24 Center;

25                   (H) The University of Texas Medical Branch at  
26 Galveston;

27                   (I) The University of Texas Health Science Center

1 at Houston;

2 (J) The University of Texas Health Science Center  
3 at San Antonio;

4 (K) the School of Medicine at The University of  
5 Texas Rio Grande Valley;

6 (L) The University of Texas Health Science Center  
7 at Tyler;

8 (M) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
9 Center; and

10 (N) Sam Houston State University College of  
11 Osteopathic Medicine;

12 (2) the commission;

13 (3) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

14 (4) three nonprofit organizations that focus on  
15 women's health care, designated by a majority of the members  
16 described by Subdivision (1); and

17 (5) any other entity that the executive committee  
18 considers necessary.

19 Sec. 114.053. ADMINISTRATIVE ATTACHMENT. The consortium is  
20 administratively attached to the Texas Higher Education  
21 Coordinating Board for the purpose of receiving and administering  
22 appropriations and other funds under this chapter. The board is  
23 not responsible for providing to the consortium personnel, human  
24 resources, contract monitoring, purchasing, or any other  
25 administrative support services.

26 Sec. 114.054. FUNDING. The consortium may accept and use  
27 for purposes of this chapter money appropriated by the legislature

1 and grants, gifts, and donations from public and private sources.

2 SUBCHAPTER C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

3 Sec. 114.101. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPOSITION. The  
4 consortium is governed by an executive committee composed of the  
5 following members:

6 (1) the chair of the department of obstetrics and  
7 gynecology or family medicine of each participating health-related  
8 institution of higher education or a licensed obstetrics and  
9 gynecology physician, family medicine physician, or maternal-fetal  
10 medicine medical specialist designated by the chair to serve in the  
11 chair's place;

12 (2) a representative of the commission with expertise  
13 in women's health, appointed by the executive commissioner;

14 (3) a representative of the Texas Higher Education  
15 Coordinating Board, appointed by the commissioner of the  
16 coordinating board;

17 (4) a representative of each nonprofit organization  
18 described by Section 114.052(4) that is part of the consortium,  
19 designated by a majority of the members described by Subdivision  
20 (1); and

21 (5) any other representative designated by a majority  
22 of the members described by Subdivision (1) at the request of the  
23 executive committee.

24 Sec. 114.102. VACANCY. A vacancy on the executive  
25 committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
26 appointment.

27 Sec. 114.103. PRESIDING OFFICER. The executive committee

1 shall elect a presiding officer from among the membership of the  
2 executive committee.

3 Sec. 114.104. GENERAL DUTIES. The executive committee  
4 shall:

5 (1) develop and implement policies, procedures, and  
6 guidelines for the operation of the consortium;

7 (2) oversee the administration of the consortium,  
8 including the use of money;

9 (3) solicit and evaluate applications and proposals  
10 from the participating health-related institutions of higher  
11 education and other entities applying for grants and contracts for  
12 research, education, and health care services related to women's  
13 health;

14 (4) establish criteria for awarding grants and  
15 contracts for research, education, and health care services related  
16 to women's health;

17 (5) provide technical assistance to the participating  
18 health-related institutions of higher education and other entities  
19 applying for grants and contracts for research, education, and  
20 health care services related to women's health;

21 (6) establish a fellowship program for obstetrics and  
22 gynecology physicians who have completed residency and are  
23 interested in pursuing a career in women's health, with a focus on  
24 serving underserved areas of this state;

25 (7) establish a program to fund residency positions  
26 for obstetrics and gynecology physicians, with a focus on serving  
27 underserved areas of this state;

1           (8) provide oversight and evaluation of the fellowship  
2 program and residency position program; and

3           (9) report annually to the governor, lieutenant  
4 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives on the  
5 activities and achievements of the consortium.

6           Sec. 114.105. MEETINGS. The executive committee shall meet  
7 at least quarterly or more frequently at the call of the presiding  
8 officer.

9           SUBCHAPTER D. WOMEN'S HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM

10          Sec. 114.151. WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE EXPANSION. (a) The  
11 executive committee may award grants to participating  
12 health-related institutions of higher education to fund research,  
13 education, and health care services related to women's health.

14          (b) The executive committee shall develop eligibility  
15 criteria for participating institutions of higher education that  
16 apply for grants under this section.

17          (c) The executive committee shall provide administrative  
18 and technical support to a participating institution of higher  
19 education that is awarded a grant under this section.

20          Sec. 114.152. WOMEN'S HEALTH PHYSICIAN FELLOWSHIP. (a)  
21 The executive committee may provide funding for women's health  
22 physician fellowships, including for:

23           (1) obstetrics and gynecology physicians who have  
24 completed a residency program and have a demonstrated interest in  
25 providing women's health care services; and

26           (2) residency program positions for obstetrics and  
27 gynecology physicians who have a demonstrated interest in providing

1 women's health care services.

2 (b) In awarding funding under Subsection (a), the executive  
3 committee shall give priority to physicians serving in underserved  
4 areas of this state.

5 (c) The executive committee shall develop eligibility  
6 criteria for obstetrics and gynecology physicians applying for  
7 fellowships under this section.

8 SUBCHAPTER E. WOMEN'S HEALTH MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS

9 Sec. 114.201. ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN'S HEALTH MOBILE HEALTH  
10 CLINICS. The executive committee shall establish or expand  
11 existing mobile health clinics at the participating health-related  
12 institutions of higher education to provide health care services  
13 for women in underserved areas of this state.

14 Sec. 114.202. REQUIREMENTS FOR MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS. Each  
15 mobile health clinic established or expanded under this subchapter  
16 must include licensed health care professionals, including at least  
17 one obstetrics and gynecology or family medicine physician.

18 Sec. 114.203. MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES. A mobile  
19 health clinic established or expanded under this subchapter shall  
20 provide preventative health care services for women, including  
21 cancer screenings, reproductive health care services, and  
22 immunizations in person or by using telehealth services.

23 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
24 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
25 Services Commission, the commissioner of the Texas Higher Education  
26 Coordinating Board, and the members of the executive committee  
27 described by Section 114.101(1), Health and Safety Code, as added

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1 by this Act, shall make the appointments required by Section  
2 114.101, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

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