

S.B. No. 44

AN ACT

relating to the Indigent Health Care Advisory Committee.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 61, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 61.012 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.012. INDIGENT HEALTH CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall establish an advisory committee to advise the commission on rules and policies concerning indigent health care services.

(b) The advisory committee shall consist of 11 members, including four consumers or persons representing consumers and seven other representatives, appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

(c) The advisory committee shall:

(1) conduct a feasibility study and develop recommendations regarding the implementation of a pilot program for the regionalization of county indigent health care services and assistance and hospital district services and assistance;

(2) review and propose recommendations for legislation updating indigent health care and treatment under this chapter, including:

(A) the health care services provided under Subchapter B;

(B) the differences in eligibility requirements for and health care services provided by:

(i) a county under Subchapter B;

(ii) a public hospital under Subchapter C;

and

(iii) a hospital district under Subchapter C;

(C) the allocation method used for distributing state assistance funds; and

(D) county reporting requirements and enforcement by the department; and

(3) identify other areas or subjects related to indigent health care that the advisory committee could review or study.

(d) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the size or composition of the advisory committee.

(e) Not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year, the Health and Human Services Commission shall submit a report regarding the advisory committee's recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislature.

(f) This section expires September 1, 2007.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 44 passed the Senate on March 17, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 27, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 44 passed the House, with amendment, on May 25, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor