



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

Combined Presentation: SB 25 and HB 37

Presentation to the House Committee on Public Health

Manda Hall, MD

Chief Medical Executive, Deputy Commissioner – Community Health Improvement Division

June 2026

Topics

- Implementation of Senate Bill 25
- Implementation of House Bill 37



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Health Services

Implementation of Senate Bill 25



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Senate Bill 25 Overview

Authored by Sen. Kolkhorst | Sponsor: Rep. Hull

- **Food Product Labeling Rules:** Adopted by DSHS with enforcement by the Attorney General
- **Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee:** Appointed by Governor and administratively supported by DSHS
- **Education Requirements:** Developed or adopted by applicable state agencies, the State Board of Education, and public and higher education entities



Food Product Labeling Rules

Rules Adoption Process:

- Adopted in the Texas Register on February 23, 2026

Rules Scope:

- Includes warning labeling requirements related to food containing artificial colors, additives, or certain banned chemicals
- Applies to product labels developed or copyrighted on or after January 1, 2027

Current Status:

- Subject to ongoing litigation (U.S. District Court – Western District of Texas – 6:25-cv-00566)



Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee (TNAC)

Seven members appointed by the Governor, including at least:

- One expert in metabolic health, culinary medicine, lifestyle medicine, or integrative medicine;
- One licensed physician certified in functional medicine;
- One member representing the Texas Department of Agriculture;
- One member representing a rural community;
- One member representing an urban community; and
- One pediatrician specializing in metabolic health.



TNAC Roster

Name	City	Membership Category	Term Expires
Jaclyn Lewis Albin, MD – <i>Chair</i>	Bedford	Pediatrician specializing in metabolic health	9/1/2029
Ann M. Shippy, MD – <i>Vice Chair</i>	Austin	Licensed physician certified in functional medicine	9/1/2027
Padmaja Patel, MD	Midland	Expert in metabolic health, culinary medicine, lifestyle medicine, or integrative medicine	9/1/2029
Sidney “Sid” C. Miller	Stephenville	Texas Department of Agriculture representative	9/1/2027
Natalie Bachynsky, PhD	Lovelady	Rural community member	9/1/2027
Cheryl Sew Hoy	Austin	Urban community member	9/1/2029
Kathleen Davis, PhD	Denton	General member	9/1/2029



TNAC Duties

- Examine the impact of nutrition on human health and examine the connection between ultra-processed foods, including foods containing artificial color and food additives, and the prevalence of chronic diseases and other chronic health issues;
- Provide an independent review of scientific studies analyzing the effects of ultra-processed foods on human health;
- Provide education on the effects of ultra-processed foods on human health; and
- Develop and maintain dietary and nutritional guidelines based on the consensus of available scientific studies and information concerning diet and nutrition.



TNAC Annual Report – due September 1st

Required Contents:

- A summary of scientific studies regarding the impact of nutrition and ultra-processed foods on human health;
- Nutritional guidelines incorporating any new scientific findings; and
- Any other recommendations the advisory committee considers appropriate based on new scientific studies.



TNAC – Annual Report Status

Committee Work:

- Full committee meetings held: January, March, April, May 2026
- Workgroups established and meetings are ongoing

Workgroups Established to:

- Identify literature and define ultra-processed food
- Refine research questions for potential rapid systematic reviews
- Define who can help with broader systematic research



TNAC Report – Next Steps

- Report research and drafting in progress
- Frequent workgroup and full committee meetings scheduled for this spring and summer
- Upcoming meetings:
 - June 25, 2026
 - July 14, 2026
 - August 19, 2026



Education Requirements: Impact of TNAC Report/Guidelines

Beginning with the 2027-2028 School Year:

- State Board of Education to update essential knowledge and skills for health curriculum for grades K-8
- School districts and charter schools to update nutrition and wellness elective courses for high schools
- Higher education institutions to expand nutrition education offerings and requirements, including for undergraduate medical and health care service-related majors and graduate medical education

By December 31, 2026 or January 1, 2027:

- Texas Medical Board, Texas Board of Nursing, and the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation to update licensing and continuing education requirements



Implementation of House Bill 37



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House Bill 37 Overview – “Everly’s Law”

Authored by Rep. Plesa | Sponsor: Sen. Huffman

- Establishes Perinatal Bereavement Care service requirements within a hospitals assigned a Maternal Level of Care (MLOC) in [Health and Safety Code Chapter 328](#).
- Requires DSHS to establish and administer a [Perinatal Bereavement Care Initiative](#) focused on device distribution and staff training.
- Develops a Hospital Recognition Program in collaboration with the Perinatal Advisory Committee.

Funding per the 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act \$2.5 million per fiscal year to implement HB 37 (Article IX, Section 18.04)



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Perinatal Bereavement Care Requirements

- Applies to all Maternal Level of Care (MLOC) hospitals.
- Hospitals will provide compassionate perinatal bereavement care counseling and ensure that any available bereavement devices are offered to support parents and families during the loss of their baby.
- Perinatal bereavement devices allow parents to hold their baby after death and say their final goodbyes.



Device Distribution

Maternal Level of Care	Total Number of hospitals	Total number of devices that have been distributed (as of 5/20/2026)*
Level I	56	30
Level II	82	49
Level III	45	16
Level IV	32	11
Total	215	106

*105 devices are scheduled to begin distribution in June 2026

- DSHS prioritizing hospitals that lack access to bereavement devices, treat a greater number of high-risk maternal patients, and deliver a greater number of babies.



Hospital Recognition Program

- DSHS worked with the Perinatal Advisory Committee to establish criteria for hospital recognition.
- Hospitals who attend a DSHS in-person or online Perinatal Bereavement Care Initiative training and have at least one perinatal bereavement care device will receive recognition under this program.



Perinatal Bereavement Care Trainings

- DSHS has partnered with the Texas EMS Trauma and Acute Care Foundation ([TETAF](#)) to develop perinatal bereavement care trainings for hospitals and staff.
- Trainings focus on ensuring that families receive high quality care in a considerate and respectful manner following a loss
- Trainings include how to use and maintain perinatal bereavement devices
- In-person trainings were held from April 20th to June 2nd in Austin, Houston, Dallas, Lubbock, and Corpus Christi.



Perinatal Bereavement – Next Steps

- DSHS will continue working with hospitals to distribute bereavement devices.
- DSHS will finalize and implement a curriculum for an on-demand, continuing education webinar series on perinatal bereavement care.
- DSHS will finalize and distribute a Perinatal Bereavement Care toolkit to serve as a resource to hospitals and staff





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