

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1681

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Communicable Disease and Public Health Center.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to:

(1) address the communicable disease and public health challenges of the international border region;

(2) develop a unified message that will enable this state to:

(A) maximize the use of local resources;

(B) increase efficiency and reduce duplication of staff resources; and

(C) strengthen collaboration with local governmental entities; and

(3) foster a greater local and regional capacity to address the diseases and allow the border region and this state to capitalize on the expertise and insight of local health professionals and departments to better serve the border communities and region and this state.

SECTION 2. Chapter 81, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

Sec. 81.451. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "center" means the Communicable Disease and Public Health Center established

1 under this subchapter.

2 Sec. 81.452. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ESTABLISH  
3 CENTER. The department shall enter into a memorandum of  
4 understanding with a county located on an international border that  
5 has a population of at least 700,000 and that has as its county seat  
6 a municipality with a population of less than 100,000 to establish  
7 and jointly operate a Communicable Disease and Public Health  
8 Center.

9 Sec. 81.453. DONATION OF LAND. The governing body of a  
10 county described by Section 81.452, or a municipality in that  
11 county, may donate real property to the department for the center.  
12 The donation may be in fee simple or otherwise.

13 Sec. 81.454. ASSISTANCE FROM MUNICIPALITY. The local  
14 health department of a county that enters into a memorandum of  
15 understanding under Section 81.452 may seek the assistance of a  
16 municipality in the local health department's jurisdiction to  
17 establish and operate the center.

18 Sec. 81.455. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER.

19 (a) The center shall:

20 (1) provide a central repository of vector control  
21 resources for municipalities in a county described by Section  
22 81.452 and counties adjacent to that county;

23 (2) develop local surveillance, outreach, and  
24 response campaigns to address communicable disease and potential  
25 vectors of communicable disease;

26 (3) provide local, regional, and international  
27 health-related briefings;

1           (4) cooperate with local, regional, state, and  
2 international officials to:

3                   (A) increase environmental awareness to reduce  
4 sources for vector development; and

5                   (B) develop recommendations for implementing  
6 nuisance abatement policies;

7           (5) with the assistance of appropriate authorities,  
8 facilitate trapping, adulticiding, and larviciding of vector  
9 populations along the international border;

10           (6) provide to health care professionals current  
11 information, including health advisories and guidance with  
12 communicable disease case management, regarding communicable  
13 disease and potential vectors of communicable disease;

14           (7) in cooperation with federal and international  
15 partners, educate and provide health care screenings to populations  
16 at high risk of contracting a communicable disease that are  
17 traditionally difficult to contact, including individuals not  
18 lawfully present in the United States; and

19           (8) facilitate information sharing between local  
20 entities.

21           (b) A local campaign developed under Subsection (a)(2) must  
22 be in both English and Spanish.

23           (c) The center may serve as a call center for concerns  
24 regarding communicable disease and public health along the  
25 international border.

26           (d) A local health department in each county adjacent to an  
27 international border shall report to the center information

1 regarding:

2 (1) incidents of communicable disease in the county;

3 (2) public health challenges in the county; and

4 (3) any other public health or communicable disease  
5 issue, as required by the department.

6 (e) The local health department of a county that enters into  
7 a memorandum of understanding under Section 81.452 shall:

8 (1) collaborate with the local health department of  
9 each adjoining county; and

10 (2) meet with a representative of each local health  
11 department described by Subdivision (1) at least monthly to discuss  
12 the health status of each county and address the occurrence and  
13 control of communicable disease in each county.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.