

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

TITLE 2. HEALTH

SUBTITLE F. LOCAL REGULATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CHAPTER 121. LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH REORGANIZATION ACT

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 121.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the Local Public Health Reorganization Act.

Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Sec. 121.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Essential public health services" means services to:

(A) monitor the health status of individuals in the community to identify community health problems;

(B) diagnose and investigate community health problems and community health hazards;

(C) inform, educate, and empower the community with respect to health issues;

(D) mobilize community partnerships in identifying and solving community health problems;

(E) develop policies and plans that support individual and community efforts to improve health;

(F) enforce laws and rules that protect the public health and ensure safety in accordance with those laws and rules;

(G) link individuals who have a need for community and personal health services to appropriate community and private providers;

(H) ensure a competent workforce for the provision of essential public health services;

(I) research new insights and innovative solutions to community health problems; and

(J) evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services in a community.

(2) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine by the Texas Medical Board.

Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1378, Sec. 1, eff. June 19, 1999.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 3.0361, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 121.003. POWERS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES. (a) The governing body of a municipality or the commissioners court of a county may enforce any law that is reasonably necessary to protect the public health.

(b) The governing bodies of municipalities and the commissioners courts of counties may cooperate with one another in making necessary improvements and providing services to promote the public health in accordance with Chapter 791, Government Code.

(c) The commissioners court of a county may grant authority under this subsection to a county employee who is trained by a health authority appointed by the county under Section 121.021, by a local health department established under Section 121.031, or by a public health district established under Section 121.041 and who is not a peace officer. The court may grant to the employee the power to issue a citation in an unincorporated area of the county to enforce any law or order of the commissioners court that is reasonably necessary to protect the public health. A citation issued under this subsection must state the name of the person cited, the violation charged, and the time and place the person is required to appear in court. If a person who receives a citation under this subsection fails to appear on the return date of the citation, the court may issue a warrant for the person's arrest for the violation described in the citation.

Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989. Amended by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 562, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 26, 1991.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 3.0362, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 121.0035. REGULATION OF MOBILE FOOD UNITS AND ROADSIDE FOOD VENDORS IN CERTAIN POPULOUS AREAS. (a) In this section, "mobile food unit" and "roadside food vendor" have the meanings assigned under Section 437.001.

(b) A municipality with a population of 1.5 million or more and a county with a population of 3.4 million or more shall enforce state law and

rules adopted under state law concerning mobile food units and roadside food vendors in the same manner that the county or municipality enforces other health and safety regulations relating to food service.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1288 (H.B. 2507), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 121.004. LOCAL HEALTH UNITS. A local health unit is a division of municipal or county government that provides public health services but does not provide each service listed under Section 121.006(d) or required of a public health district under Section 121.043(a).

Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 3.0363, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 121.005. STATE AND LOCAL AFFILIATION; CONTRACTS. (a) A local health unit, local health department, or public health district may become affiliated with the department to facilitate the exchange of information and the coordination of public health services.

(b) To be affiliated with the department, a local health unit, local health department, or public health district must annually provide to the department information relating to:

- (1) services provided;
- (2) staffing patterns; and
- (3) funding sources and budget.

(c) The department may contract with a local health unit, local health department, or public health district for the provision of public health services.

(d) The executive commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 3.0364, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 121.006. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES FEES; STATE SUPPORT. (a) The governing body of a municipality, the commissioners court of a county, or

the administrative board of a public health district may adopt ordinances or rules to charge fees for public health services.

(b) A municipality, county, or public health district may not deny public health services to an individual because of inability to pay for the services. A municipality, county, or public health district shall provide for the reduction or waiver of a fee for an individual who cannot pay for services in whole or in part.

(c) Chapter 783, Government Code, and standards adopted under that chapter control, if applicable, if the local health unit, local health department, or public health district receives state support for the provision of public health services.

(c-1) A fee for a public health service charged in the jurisdiction of a public health district may be uniform throughout the district regardless of which governmental entity member of the district charges the fee. The fee may be set at an amount up to the highest amount charged by any governmental entity member of the district.

(d) In this section, "public health services" means:

- (1) personal health promotion and maintenance services;
- (2) infectious disease control and prevention services;
- (3) environmental and consumer health programs;
- (4) public health education and information services;
- (5) laboratory services; and
- (6) administrative services.

Acts 1989, 71st Leg., ch. 678, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1989.

Amended by:

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 810 (S.B. 1380), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 1 (S.B. 219), Sec. 3.0365, eff. April 2, 2015.

Sec. 121.0065. GRANTS FOR ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES. (a) Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall administer a program under which appropriated money may be granted to counties, municipalities, public health districts, and other political subdivisions for use by the counties, municipalities, public health districts, and other political subdivisions to provide or pay for essential public health services.

(b) The grants authorized by Subsection (a) shall be distributed equally between urban and rural areas of the state.