

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 841

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the health professions resource center; increasing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Section 105.002, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) To the extent funding is available through fees collected under Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, the council shall establish a social work resource section within the center for the collection and analysis of educational and employment trends for social workers in this state.

(e) If the social work resource section established under Subsection (d) is funded from surcharges collected under Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, the council shall provide the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners with an annual accounting of the money received from the board. The council may expend a reasonable amount of the money to pay administrative costs of maintaining the social work resource section.

SECTION 2. Sections 105.003(a), (c-1), (d), and (e), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The council shall place a high priority on collecting and disseminating data on health professions demonstrating an acute shortage in this state, including:

(1) data concerning nursing personnel; ~~and~~

(2) data concerning social workers; and

(3) data concerning the health professions in which shortages occur in rural areas and areas near the international border.

(c-1) The Department of Information Resources, through the state electronic Internet portal and in consultation with the council and the Health Professions Council, shall add the following fields on an application or renewal form for a license, certificate, or registration for a person subject to Subsection (c-2):

(1) date and place of birth;

(2) sex;

(3) race and ethnicity;

(4) location of high school;

(5) mailing address of primary practice;

(6) number of hours per week spent at primary practice location;

(7) description of primary practice setting;

(8) primary practice information, including primary specialty practice, practice location zip code, and county; ~~and~~

(9) information regarding any additional practice, including description of practice setting, practice location zip code, and county; and

(10) a description of the person's language fluency.

(d) To the extent feasible, the council shall use a researcher with a doctorate in nursing to collect, analyze, and disseminate nursing data that may be used to predict supply and

1 demand for nursing personnel in this state using appropriate  
2 federal or state supply-and-demand models. To the extent feasible,  
3 the council shall use a researcher with a degree from a master's  
4 social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work  
5 Education and a doctorate in social work to collect, analyze, and  
6 disseminate social work data that may be used to predict supply and  
7 demand for social work personnel in this state using appropriate  
8 federal or state supply-and-demand models. The nursing and social  
9 work data must at least:

10 (1) include demographics, areas of practice, supply,  
11 demand, and migration; and

12 (2) be analyzed to identify trends relating to numbers  
13 and geographical distribution, practice setting, and area of  
14 practice and, to the extent possible, compare those trends with  
15 corresponding national trends.

16 (e) Data received under this section by the nursing resource  
17 section or the social work resource section established under  
18 Section 105.002 that contains information identifying specific  
19 patients or health care facilities is confidential, is not subject  
20 to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may not be  
21 released unless all identifying information is removed.

22 SECTION 3. Section 105.004(b), Health and Safety Code, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (b) The council shall publish reports regarding the data  
25 collected and analyzed under this chapter related to:

26 (1) the educational and employment trends of nursing  
27 and social work professionals;

1           (2) the supply and demand of nursing and social work  
2 professionals; and

3           (3) other issues, as determined necessary by the  
4 council, concerning nursing or social work professionals in this  
5 state.

6           SECTION 4. Section 505.203, Occupations Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

8           (d) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the  
9 amount of the fee to renew a social worker license is increased by  
10 \$10. The board may use six cents from the amount of the surcharge  
11 under this subsection to cover the administrative costs of  
12 collecting and depositing the surcharge. The board quarterly shall  
13 transmit the remainder of each surcharge to the Department of State  
14 Health Services to be used only to fund the social work resource  
15 section under Section 105.002, Health and Safety Code. The board is  
16 not required to collect the surcharge if the board determines that  
17 the money collected is not appropriated to fund the social work  
18 resource section.

19           SECTION 5. Section 505.203(d), Occupations Code, as added  
20 by this Act, applies only to a license renewed on or after the  
21 effective date of this Act. A license renewed before the effective  
22 date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the  
23 license was renewed, and the former law is continued in effect for  
24 that purpose.

25           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.