

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R3948 YDB-D

S.B. 424
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Business & Commerce
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the Texas Coordinating Council prepares and reviews a proposed state health plan every six years and updates the plan biennially. This plan focuses on the status of the health care workforce and does not address other significant public health issues resulting from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). As proposed, S.B. 424 directs the Texas Department of Health and other health related agencies and institutions to develop a state strategic health plan and to recommend action that is necessary to address the public health concerns resulting from increased trade due to NAFTA.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. (a) Requires the Texas Department of Health (department), with assistance from the Health and Human Services Commission (commission) and the University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston, to study the health of the residents of this state and develop a strategic health plan for this state.

(b) Requires in developing the strategic health plan, the department to examine:

(1) the increased industrial pollution along the region of the state near the border with Mexico, any decrease in the air quality in this state resulting from the increased commerce between this state and Mexico, and the increased transmission of communicable diseases and any related unsafe health practices resulting from the increased exchange of goods, services and people.

(2) the following as related to the increase in trade between Mexico and this State; the behavioral effects on residents of this state, environmental changes and economic growth.

(3) health care delivery and the access residents of this state have to health care; and

(4) the organizational infrastructure of the health care system.

(c) Requires the strategic health plan to outline the steps the state should take to address the health needs of the residents of this state.

(d) Requires the department, not later than December 15, 2002, to develop the strategic health plan required by this Act and file a written report of the plan with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act expires February 1, 2003.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.