

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 1121
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 26, 2019; March 7, 2019,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Health & Human
1-4 Services; April 23, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0;
1-6 April 23, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	Kolkhorst	X		
1-10	Perry	X		
1-11	Buckingham	X		
1-12	Campbell	X		
1-13	Flores	X		
1-14	Johnson	X		
1-15	Miles	X		
1-16	Powell	X		
1-17	Seliger	X		

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1121 By: Perry

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to public health laboratory capabilities in certain
1-22 counties.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Health and Safety Code, is amended by
1-25 adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

1-26 SUBCHAPTER K. PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY CAPABILITIES IN CERTAIN
1-27 COUNTIES

1-28 Sec. 12.151. PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY REPORT. (a) Not
1-29 later than September 1, 2020, the department shall prepare and
1-30 submit a written or electronic report to the legislature on public
1-31 laboratories in this state's counties that are adjacent to an
1-32 international border. The report must include:

1-33 (1) information on the existing testing capabilities
1-34 of the public laboratories, focusing on clinical, environmental,
1-35 and zoonotic testing capabilities; and

1-36 (2) recommendations to increase the efficiency,
1-37 effectiveness, and productivity of the public laboratories through
1-38 administrative action and legislation.

1-39 (b) The department shall collaborate with local health
1-40 departments established under Subchapter D, Chapter 121, and public
1-41 and private testing laboratories to collect information and develop
1-42 recommendations for the report described by Subsection (a).

1-43 (c) This section expires September 1, 2021.

1-44 Sec. 12.152. LOCAL AGREEMENTS. Using available resources
1-45 and as determined appropriate by the department, the department
1-46 shall enter into agreements with institutions of higher education
1-47 as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, and public and
1-48 private testing laboratories in this state to increase the
1-49 availability of public health laboratory services for local health
1-50 departments established under Subchapter D, Chapter 121, in
1-51 counties adjacent to an international border. The agreements must
1-52 establish protocols that:

1-53 (1) ensure confidentiality of the laboratory testing;

1-54 (2) require the testing procedures to satisfy state
1-55 standards for laboratory testing;

1-56 (3) provide cost-effective resources to the local
1-57 health departments to increase the availability of laboratory
1-58 testing in the border counties;

1-59 (4) enhance the laboratory testing capacity,
1-60 including testing of human and nonhuman specimens, in the border

2-1 counties; and
2-2 (5) ensure the efficiency, effectiveness, and
2-3 accuracy of laboratory test results.

2-4 Sec. 12.153. YEAR-ROUND ACCESS TO LABORATORY TESTING FOR
2-5 VECTOR-BORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Using available resources and as
2-6 determined appropriate by the department, the department shall
2-7 support access to year-round laboratory testing for vector-borne
2-8 infectious diseases to record and address local outbreaks of
2-9 vector-borne infectious diseases in the counties of this state that
2-10 are most at risk for the year-round outbreaks, including Maverick,
2-11 Val Verde, Webb, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron
2-12 Counties. The department may make the access directly available or
2-13 through a local agreement entered into under Section 12.152. The
2-14 testing may include, as appropriate:

- 2-15 (1) arboviral testing;
- 2-16 (2) speciation testing;
- 2-17 (3) PCR testing;
- 2-18 (4) IgM testing;
- 2-19 (5) IgG testing; and
- 2-20 (6) any other testing the department determines
2-21 appropriate.

2-22 SECTION 2. The Department of State Health Services is
2-23 required to implement a provision of this Act only if the
2-24 legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If
2-25 the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
2-26 purpose, the department may, but is not required to, implement a
2-27 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that
2-28 purpose.

2-29 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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