



# **Presentation to the House Public Health Committee: House Bill 15**

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Patricia Vojack

Deputy Executive Commissioner, Health Policy and Clinical Services  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission

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# HB 15: Overview

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- HB 15 (83R) required the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to appoint a Perinatal Advisory Council to work together to develop a process for the designation of levels of neonatal and maternal care at hospitals, including:
    - specifying the minimum requirements to qualify for each level designation and a process for the assignment of levels of care to a hospital,
    - making recommendations for dividing the state into neonatal and maternal care regions,
    - examining utilization trends in neonatal and maternal care, and
    - recommending ways to improve neonatal and maternal outcomes.
  - HB 15 continues the work of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Council created by HB 2636 (82R) which expired on August 31, 2013.

# Perinatal Advisory Council

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- The 17-member Perinatal Advisory Council is formed of physicians, nurses, and hospital representatives.
  - **Chairman: Dr. Eugene Toy, Houston, Texas**
- The Council has met six times this calendar year to focus on the NICU designation process.
- Neonatal Designation, Outcomes, and Definitions subcommittees have been formed.
- The Council's recommendations for newborn levels of care designation are being incorporated into administrative rules currently.
  - **This includes: DSHS Regulatory and HHSC reimbursement rules for Medicaid**

# Perinatal Advisory Council: Next Steps

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- The Council's next steps will be focused on obstetrical levels of care designation process and quality reporting.
  - The next scheduled meeting is October 7<sup>th</sup> in Austin.
- The council must submit a report with its recommendations to HHSC and DSHS by September 1, 2015.
- On September 1, 2017, newborn standards tied to Medicaid reimbursement become effective.
- On September 1, 2019 obstetrical standards tied to Medicaid reimbursement become effective.