



Health Facility Compliance Guidance Letter

Number: GL 21-2007
Title: Information for Reporting Suspicious Activity Required on Human Trafficking Signs (HB 3721-87R)
Provider Types: Abortion Facilities, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, General and Special Hospitals
Date Issued: November 9, 2021

1.0 Subject and Purpose

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provides guidance to licensed providers on legislation passed during the 87th Legislature, Regular Session (2021). [House Bill \(HB\) 3721](#), relating to the inclusion of information for reporting suspicious activity to the Department of Public Safety on certain human trafficking signs or notices, took effect September 1, 2021.

This letter provides instruction to abortion facilities, including ambulatory surgical centers where abortions are performed, and general and special hospitals, on the passage of HB 3721 and outlines provider responsibilities and expectations.

2.0 Legislative Details & Provider Responsibilities

[Texas Health and Safety Code \(HSC\) §245.025](#) requires abortion facilities and ambulatory surgical centers that perform abortions to post signs concerning human trafficking in English and Spanish in each restroom and patient consulting room throughout the facility. [HSC §241.011](#) requires general and special hospital emergency departments to comply with the signage requirements under [HSC §245.025](#).

HB 3721 amended [HSC §245.025](#) to require the human trafficking signs to also include contact information for reporting suspicious activity to the Department of Public Safety (DPS).¹

By January 1, 2022, the required signs must include contact information for the Texas Suspicious Activity Reporting Network's iWatchTexas website (www.iWatchTX.org) and phone number (1-844-643-2251).

HB 3721 also requires HHSC to collaborate with DPS to adopt, by December 1, 2021, the rules necessary to implement the changes to [HSC §245.025](#). After collaborating with DPS, HHSC proposed rules for hospitals and abortion facilities to implement HB 3721 [in the October 8, 2021 edition of the Texas Register](#).

3.0 Background/History

The author's and sponsor's statement of intent for HB 3721 states that several licensees in Texas are required to post signage and notices displaying the national human trafficking hotline number or other information regarding assistance for trafficking victims. Given DPS's effectiveness in collecting, analyzing, and culling suspicious activity for investigations, there were calls to add DPS contact information to the signage displayed in these establishments as the number to contact for tips and reports of suspected trafficking. H.B. 3721 seeks to address this issue by providing for the inclusion of that contact information on certain human trafficking signs and notices.²

4.0 Resources

View HB 3721 (87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021) at: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/html/HB03721F.htm>.

View the iWatchTexas website at: www.iWatchTX.org.

View Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 245 at: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.245.htm>.

View Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 241 at: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HS/htm/HS.241.htm>.

View issues of the *Texas Register* at: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/index.shtml>.

¹ HSC §245.025(a-1).

² Texas Senate Research Center's HB 3721 Bill Analysis

View the Texas Senate Research Center's HB 3721 Bill Analysis at:
<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/analysis/pdf/HB03721E.pdf#navpanes=0>.

To receive future updates, sign up for GovDelivery at:
<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/subscriber/new>.

5.0 Contact Information

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Policy, Rules, and Training unit by email at: HCR_PRT@hhs.texas.gov.