

CHAPTER 314

H.B. No. 1972

AN ACT

relating to permissible activities of certain nonprofit medical clinics operated by a nonprofit hospital or organization.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 3.06, Medical Practice Act (Article 4495b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

(g) *This Act does not prohibit a nonprofit clinic that is operated by a nonprofit hospital or organization and that primarily serves a financially indigent population from:*

- (1) *contracting with a physician to provide services at the clinic;*
- (2) *paying a physician a minimum guarantee to assure the physician's availability;*
- (3) *billing to and collecting from patients as the physician's agent the physician's professional fees; or*

(4) *retaining any professional fees collected under Subdivision (3) of this subsection up to the amount of the minimum guaranteed fee and a reasonable collection fee.*

(h) *In Subsection (g), "financially indigent population" means persons meeting Medicaid eligibility requirements or uninsured persons who are accepted for care with no obligation to pay or with a discounted obligation to pay for services rendered based on the clinic's eligibility system.*

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 30, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 14, 1993: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Approved May 27, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment