

# **HB 1403 - "THE HONORABLE RUTH JONES MCCLENDON ACT" CREATING SYRINGE EXCHANGE PILOT PROGRAMS REPRESENTATIVE JOE MOODY (DISTRICT 78-EL PASO)**

**HB 1403** would authorize the establishment of infectious disease control syringe exchange pilot programs in seven counties: **Bexar, Harris, Travis, Dallas, Webb, El Paso, Nueces**. Participants would have an opportunity to exchange used syringes for clean ones, and work with a case manager to meet basic needs to move towards substance abuse treatment options. They would also provide regular HIV and STD testing, allowing medical treatment to begin immediately.

## **HIV in Texas**

According to Texas Department of State Health Services\*, as of 2021:

- 123,117 Texans are living with HIV.
- An increase of 119,838 since 2020.
- New cases have increased by approximately 4,000 a year since 2012.
- 102,800 Texans have received a diagnosis.
- 74,544 were in care, only 77 percent.

**We are asking for your support of HB 1403, which would create infectious disease control pilot programs in seven counties across Texas.**

## **This is not a statewide mandate.**

This is the opportunity to pilot programs in high-risk jurisdictions and allow them to develop solutions that work best for their communities. **There is no fiscal note attached, programs will be required to identify funding individually.** Programs may also choose to charge participants a fee.

## **Counties Highly Affected by HIV**

Four of the seven proposed counties are Ending the HIV Epidemic priority jurisdictions, due to their high concentrations of HIV: Bexar, Dallas, Harris, and Travis\*\*.

Additional resources, technology, and expertise to expand HIV prevention and treatment activities have been awarded to these counties and could potentially be used to fund these infectious disease pilot programs.

\*Robbins, Ann (2022) HIV in Texas 2012-2021. Department of State Health Services, TB/HIV/STD Section.

\*\*Jurisdictions | Ending the HIV Epidemic | CDC

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