RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO CERTAIN PERSONS INVOLVED IN, AND THE PROSECUTION, PUNISHMENT, AND PREVENTION OF, OFFENSES INVOLVING TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS OR CERTAIN FORCED OR SEX-BASED LABOR OR SERVICES, AND TO LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING RELATED TO OFFENSES INVOLVING THAT TRAFFICKING.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 402, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 402.035 to read as follows:

Sec. 402.035. HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TASK FORCE. (a) In this section, “task force” means the human trafficking prevention task force.

(b) The office of the attorney general shall establish the human trafficking prevention task force to develop policies and procedures to assist in the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking crimes.

(c) The task force is composed of the following:

(1) the governor or the governor’s designee;
(2) the attorney general or the attorney general’s designee;
(3) the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission or the executive commissioner’s designee;
(4) the commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services or the commissioner’s designee;
(5) the public safety director of the Department of Public Safety or the director’s designee;
(6) one representative from each of the following state agencies, appointed by the chief administrative officer of the respective agency:
(A) the Texas Workforce Commission;
(B) the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
(C) the Texas Youth Commission;
(D) the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission; and
(E) the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission; and
(7) as appointed by the attorney general:
(A) a public defender, as defined by Article 26.044, Code of Criminal Procedure;
(B) an attorney representing the state;
(C) a representative of:
(i) a hotel and motel association;
(ii) a district and county attorneys association; and
(iii) a state police association;
(D) representatives of sheriff’s departments;
(E) representatives of local law enforcement agencies affected by human trafficking; and
(F) representatives of nongovernmental entities making comprehensive efforts to combat human trafficking by:
   (i) identifying human trafficking victims;
   (ii) providing legal or other services to human trafficking victims;
   (iii) participating in community outreach or public awareness efforts regarding human trafficking;
   (iv) providing or developing training regarding the prevention of human trafficking; or
   (v) engaging in other activities designed to prevent human trafficking.

(d) The task force shall:
   (1) collaborate, as needed to fulfill the duties of the task force, with:
      (A) United States attorneys for the districts of Texas; and
      (B) special agents or customs and border protection officers and border patrol agents of:
         (i) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
         (ii) the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;
         (iii) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;
         (iv) the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency; or
         (v) the United States Department of Homeland Security;
   (2) collect, organize, and periodically publish statistical data on the nature and extent of human trafficking in this state;
   (3) solicit cooperation and assistance from state and local governmental agencies, political subdivisions of the state, nongovernmental organizations, and other persons, as appropriate, for the purpose of collecting and organizing statistical data under Subdivision (2);
   (4) ensure that each state or local governmental agency and political subdivision of the state that assists in the prevention of human trafficking collects statistical data related to human trafficking, including, as appropriate:
      (A) the number of investigations concerning, arrests and prosecutions for, and convictions of:
         (i) the offense of trafficking of persons; and
         (ii) the offense of forgery or an offense under Chapter 43, Penal Code, if committed as part of a criminal episode involving the trafficking of persons;
      (B) demographic information on persons who are convicted of offenses described by Paragraph (A) and persons who are the victims of those offenses;
      (C) geographic routes by which human trafficking victims are trafficked and geographic patterns in human trafficking, including the country or state of origin and the country or state of destination;
      (D) means of transportation and methods used by persons who engage in trafficking to transport their victims; and
      (E) social and economic factors that create a demand for the labor or services that victims of human trafficking are forced to provide;
   (5) work with the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education to develop and conduct training for law enforcement personnel, victim service providers, and medical service providers to identify victims of human trafficking;
   (6) on the request of a judge of a county court, county court at law, or district court or a county attorney, district attorney, or criminal district attorney, assist and train the judge
or the judge's staff or the attorney or the attorney's staff in the recognition and prevention of human trafficking;

(7) examine training protocols related to human trafficking issues, as developed and implemented by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies;

(8) collaborate with state and local governmental agencies, political subdivisions of the state, and nongovernmental organizations to implement a media awareness campaign in communities affected by human trafficking; and

(9) develop recommendations on how to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent human trafficking, protect and assist human trafficking victims, and prosecute human trafficking offenders.

(e) The presiding officer of the task force is the attorney general or the attorney general's designee.

(f) The office of the attorney general shall supervise the administration of the task force. The attorney general shall provide the necessary staff and facilities to assist the task force in performing its duties.

(g) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the task force shall submit a report regarding the task force’s activities, findings, and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the legislature.

(h) This section expires September 1, 2013.

SECTION 2. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J-1. ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR DOMESTIC VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Sec. 531.381. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) “Domestic victim” means a victim of trafficking who is a permanent legal resident or citizen of the United States.

(2) “Victim of trafficking” has the meaning assigned by 22 U.S.C. Section 7102.

Sec. 531.382. VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. The commission shall develop and implement a program designed to assist domestic victims, including victims who are children, in accessing necessary services. The program must consist of at least the following components:

(1) a searchable database of assistance programs for domestic victims, including programs that provide mental health services, other health services, services to meet victims’ basic needs, case management services, and any other services the commission considers appropriate, that may be used to match victims with appropriate resources;

(2) the grant program described by Section 531.383;

(3) recommended training programs for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel; and

(4) an outreach initiative to ensure that victims, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel are aware of the availability of services through the program.

Sec. 531.383. GRANT PROGRAM. (a) Subject to available funds, the commission shall establish a grant program to award grants to public and nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to domestic victims, including organizations that provide public awareness activities, community outreach and training, victim identification services, and legal services.

(b) To apply for a grant under this section, an applicant must submit an application in the form and manner prescribed by the commission. An applicant must describe in the application the services the applicant intends to provide to domestic victims if the grant is awarded.
(c) In awarding grants under this section, the commission shall give preference to organizations that have experience in successfully providing the types of services for which the grants are awarded.

(d) A grant recipient shall provide reports as required by the commission regarding the use of grant funds.

(e) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit a report to the legislature summarizing the activities, funding, and outcomes of programs awarded a grant under this section and providing recommendations regarding the grant program.

Sec. 531.384. TRAINING PROGRAMS. The commission, with assistance from the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System, the Department of Public Safety, and local law enforcement agencies, shall create training programs designed to increase the awareness of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement personnel of the needs of domestic victims, the availability of services under this subchapter, the database of services described by Section 531.382, and potential funding sources for those services.

Sec. 531.385. FUNDING. (a) The commission may use appropriated funds and may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any sources for purposes of the victim assistance program established under this subchapter.

(b) The commission shall conduct a study regarding additional funding strategies for the victim assistance program. In conducting the study, the commission, in cooperation with appropriate governmental entities, shall identify appropriate revenue streams, which may include revenue derived from:

(1) revenue streams similar to those used to fund crime victims' compensation under Subchapter B, Chapter 56, Code of Criminal Procedure;

(2) imposing additional court costs on defendants on conviction of certain offenses;

(3) imposing additional fees on the filing of civil cases;

(4) acquiring from law enforcement agencies the proceeds from assets seized or forfeited under state or federal law; and

(5) any other source identified by the commission.

(c) The commission shall submit a report regarding the results of the study conducted under Subsection (b) to the 82nd Legislature not later than December 1, 2010. The report must include the commission's findings regarding appropriate revenue streams for the victim assistance program, proposed legislation necessary to receive the revenue for that purpose, and proposed legislation regarding the establishment of a dedicated account to which the revenue may be credited.

(d) This subsection and Subsections (b) and (c) expire January 1, 2011.

SECTION 3. Section 772.006, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(d) The trafficking of persons investigation and prosecution account is created in the general revenue fund. The account is composed of legislative appropriations and other money required by law to be deposited in the account. Income from money in the account shall be credited to the account. Sections 403.095 and 404.071 do not apply to the account.

(e) The legislature may appropriate money from the trafficking of persons investigation and prosecution account created under Subsection (d) only to the criminal justice division for the purposes of this subsection. The division may use the appropriated money solely to distribute grants to:

(1) counties that apply for the grants and that have dedicated full-time or part-time personnel to identify, prevent, investigate, or prosecute offenses under Chapter 20A, Penal Code; and

(2) nongovernmental organizations that apply for the grants and that provide comprehensive services in this state to prevent the commission of offenses under Chapter 20A, Penal Code, or to address the needs of victims of those offenses, including public awareness activities, community outreach and training, victim identification services, legal services, and other services designed to assist victims.
(f) The total amount of grants that may be distributed to counties and nongovernmental organizations from the trafficking of persons investigation and prosecution account during each state fiscal year may not exceed $10 million.

SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 141, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 141.056 to read as follows:

Sec. 141.056. STUDY OF ALTERNATIVES TO JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN WHO ENGAGE IN ACTS OF PROSTITUTION. (a) The director shall establish a committee to evaluate alternatives to the juvenile justice system, such as government programs, faith-based programs, and programs offered by nonprofit organizations, for children who are accused of engaging in acts of prostitution.

(b) The director shall determine the size of the committee. The committee must be composed of:

(1) members of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and other relevant state agencies as determined by the director;

(2) members of the legislature;

(3) members of nongovernmental organizations that provide programs and services to combat and prevent trafficking of persons as described by Section 20A.02, Penal Code, in this state, including the following with respect to that trafficking:

(A) programs to promote public awareness;

(B) programs to identify and provide services to victims;

(C) legal services; and

(D) community outreach and training programs; and

(4) other juvenile justice experts.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2011, the committee shall prepare and deliver to each member of the legislature a report that includes the results of the study and recommendations for alternatives to the juvenile justice system for children who are accused of engaging in acts of prostitution.

(d) This section expires June 1, 2011.

SECTION 5. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.258 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.258. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ON TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS. (a) The commission by rule shall require an officer first licensed by the commission on or after January 1, 2011, to complete within a reasonable time after obtaining the license a one-time basic education and training program on the trafficking of persons. The program must:

(1) consist of at least four hours of training; and

(2) include a review of the substance of Sections 20A.02 and 43.05, Penal Code.

(b) The commission shall make available to each officer a voluntary advanced education, instruction, and training program on the trafficking of persons and compelling prostitution prohibited under Sections 20A.02 and 43.05, Penal Code.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2011, the commission shall begin offering the basic and advanced programs established under this section. This subsection expires September 1, 2011.

SECTION 6. Section 1701.402, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(h) As a requirement for an intermediate or advanced proficiency certificate issued by the commission on or after January 1, 2011, an officer must complete the basic education and training program on the trafficking of persons described by Section 1701.258(a).

SECTION 7. Subsections (a) and (b), Section 20A.02, Penal Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly:
(1) [knowingly] traffics another person with the intent or knowledge that the trafficked person will engage in forced labor or services; or

(2) [intentionally or knowingly] benefits from participating in a venture that involves an activity described by Subdivision (1), including by receiving labor or services the person knows are forced labor or services.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, an offense under this section is a felony of the second degree. An offense under this section is a felony of the first degree if:

(1) the applicable conduct constitutes an offense under Section §43.05 or §43.25 [42 02] and the person who is trafficked is a child younger than 18 years of age at the time of the offense, regardless of whether the actor knows the age of the child at the time the actor commits the offense; or

(2) the commission of the offense results in the death of the person who is trafficked.

SECTION 8. Section 43.02, Penal Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the actor engaged in the conduct that constitutes the offense because the actor was the victim of conduct that constitutes an offense under Section 20A.02.

SECTION 9. Subsection (a), Section 43.05, Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person [he] knowingly:

(1) causes another by force, threat, or fraud to commit prostitution; or

(2) causes by any means a child [person] younger than 18 [17] years to commit prostitution, regardless of whether the actor knows the age of the child at the time the actor commits the offense.

SECTION 10. (a) Not later than December 1, 2009, the office of the attorney general shall establish the human trafficking prevention task force as required by Section 402.035, Government Code, as added by this Act.

(b) Not later than October 1, 2009, the executive director of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission shall establish a committee to evaluate alternatives to the juvenile justice system for children who are accused of engaging in acts of prostitution, as required by Section 141.056, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act.

(c) Not later than December 1, 2010, the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education shall adopt the rules necessary to implement Section 1701.258, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

(d) The changes in law made by this Act to Sections 20A.02, 43.02, and 43.05, Penal Code, apply only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that date.

SECTION 11. This Act does not make an appropriation. A provision in this Act that creates a new governmental program, creates a new entitlement, or imposes a new duty on a governmental entity is not mandatory during a fiscal period for which the legislature has not made a specific appropriation to implement the provision.

SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on May 14, 2009: Yeas 133, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 4009 on May 29, 2009, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 4009 on May 31, 2009: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 23, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 4009 on May 31, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.
CHAPTER 1003

H.B. No. 4029

AN ACT

relating to the release of certain health care information.

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

SECTION 1. Section 241.151(2), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "Health care information" means information, including payment information, recorded in any form or medium that identifies a patient and relates to the history, diagnosis, treatment, or prognosis of a patient.

SECTION 2. Section 241.154, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(a) On receipt of a written authorization from a patient or legally authorized representative to examine or copy all or part of the patient's recorded health care information, except payment information, or for disclosures under Section 241.153 not requiring written authorization, a hospital or its agent, as promptly as required under the circumstances but not later than the 15th day after the date the request and payment authorized under Subsection (b) are received, shall:

(1) make the information available for examination during regular business hours and provide a copy to the requestor, if requested; or

(2) inform the authorized requestor if the information does not exist or cannot be found.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (d), the hospital or its agent may charge a reasonable fee for providing the health care information except payment information and is not required to permit the examination, copying, or release of the information requested until the fee is paid unless there is a medical emergency. The fee may not exceed the sum of:

(1) a basic retrieval or processing fee, which must include the fee for providing the first 10 pages of the copies and which may not exceed $30; and

(A) a charge for each page of:

(i) $1 for the 11th through the 60th page of the provided copies;

(ii) 50 cents for the 61st through the 400th page of the provided copies; and

(iii) 25 cents for any remaining pages of the provided copies; and

(B) the actual cost of mailing, shipping, or otherwise delivering the provided copies;

(2) if the requested records are stored on [any] microform [or other electronic medium], a retrieval or processing fee, which must include the fee for providing the first 10 pages of the copies and which may not exceed $45; and

(A) $1 per page thereafter; and

(B) the actual cost of mailing, shipping, or otherwise delivering the provided copies; or

(3) if the requested records are provided on a digital or other electronic medium and the requesting party requests delivery in a digital or electronic medium, including electronic mail:

(A) a retrieval or processing fee, which may not exceed $75; and

(B) the actual cost of mailing, shipping, or otherwise delivering the provided copies.

(f) A request from a patient or legally authorized representative for payment information is subject to Section 311.002.