

Research Minute: Communicable Disease Statutes

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On March 19, Commissioner John W. Hellerstedt, M.D., of the Texas Department of State Health Services, declared a [state of public health disaster](#) for the entire state of Texas. The [authority](#) to do so and explanation of what that means can be explored in the *Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act*, which is located in [Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 81](#), Communicable Diseases. The legislation was enacted by [SB 1064, 68R](#). A few years later, the Act was added to the Health and Safety Code as part of [statutory revision](#). (Previously it was found in *VACS Art. 4419b-1*.)