

Low-Income Vehicle Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program Statement

Texas established a Low-Income Vehicle Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program (LIRAP) in 2001 to provide incentives to repair or replace vehicles in areas that don't meet federal air quality standards. LIRAP is tied to mandatory motor vehicle inspection, maintenance and emissions testing throughout the state. Under LIRAP, owners of vehicles that fail to meet certain emission standards are notified that they may qualify for financial assistance through LIRAP. The program originally provided \$600 for vehicle repair and \$1,000 for vehicle replacement. Originally, in order to qualify for LIRAP funds, the owner of the vehicle had to have an annual income that was equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

Senate Bill 12 of 2007 expands the LIRAP by:

- increasing the income threshold from 200% of the federal poverty level to 300% in order to broaden the LIRAP-eligible population;
- partnering with automobile manufacturers and automobile dealers to market LIRAP;
- partnering with the steel industry to scrap vehicles that are replaced and to provide proof that such vehicles were scrapped;
- increasing the replacement amount from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and requiring an owner of a LIRAP-eligible vehicle to replace the vehicle with a calendar year model or newer vehicle;
- working with the automobile industry, the steel industry, the state Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and participating counties to enhance the enforcement and fraud protection components of LIRAP;
- directing the state Commission on Environmental Quality to review emission cut-point levels and allowing the agency to make LIRAP available to owners of vehicles that do not meet a more stringent emission cut-point standard; and
- allowing participating counties to leverage state funds based on local matching dollars to support LIRAP and related activities.

Submitted as:

Texas

[S 12](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2007.

Medical Transparency

This Act directs the state board of medical examiners to set up and make available, primarily through the Internet, a database of information about doctors who practice in the state. The Act requires physicians who apply for a license to practice medicine in the state, or to reinstate or reactivate an existing license, disclose specific information that can be accessed by the public via the Internet.

Submitted as:

Colorado

[HB 1331](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2007.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act shall be cited as “The Medical Transparency Act.”

2
3 Section 2. [*Legislative Findings.*] The [legislature] declares:

4 (1) The people of this state need to be fully informed about the past practices of
5 people practicing medicine in this state in order to make informed decisions when choosing a
6 medical care provider and determining whether to proceed with a particular regimen of care
7 recommended by a medical care provider;

8 (2) The purpose of this Act is to provide transparency to the public regarding the
9 competency of people engaged in the practice of medicine in this state; and

10 (3) It is important to make information about people engaged in the practice of
11 medicine available to the public in a manner that is efficient, cost-effective, and maintains the
12 integrity of the information, and to that end, the [legislature] encourages people to file the required
13 information with the [state board of medical examiners] electronically, to the extent possible.

14
15 Section 3. [*Information Medical Practitioners Must Provide to the State Board of Medical*
16 *Examiners.*]

17 (a) On and after the effective date of this section, any person applying for a new license, or
18 to renew, reinstate, or reactivate a license to practice medicine in this state, shall provide the
19 following information to the [state board of medical examiners], in a form and manner determined
20 by that [board] that is consistent with the requirements of this Act:

21 (1) The applicant’s full name, including any known aliases; current address of
22 record and telephone number; information pertaining to any license to practice medicine held by
23 the applicant at any time, including the license number, type, status, original issue date, last
24 renewal date, and expiration date; any board certifications and specialties, if applicable; any
25 affiliations with hospitals or health care facilities; any business ownership interests; and
26 information pertaining to any employment contracts with any entities;

27 (2) Any public disciplinary action taken against the applicant by the [state board of
28 medical examiners] or by the board or licensing agency of any other state or country. The
29 applicant shall provide a copy of the action to the [board] at the time the application is made.

30 (3) Any agreement or stipulation entered into between the [state board of medical
31 examiners] or the board or licensing agency of any other state or country and the applicant
32 whereby the applicant agrees to temporarily cease or restrict his or her practice of medicine or any