

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 889  
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Health & Human Services  
5-12-97  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, the Texas Health and Safety Code provides for disclosure of a patient's medical information without written authorization only in certain instances. If a patient is unable to communicate, any disclosure of information to the patient's supporting clergy must come from the family. This bill would add the right of a patient's designated clergy person to be informed of the patient's health care information.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 889 adds the right of a patient's designated clergy person to be informed of the patient's health care information.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 241.153, Health and Safety Code, to authorize a patient's health care information to be disclosed without the patient's authorization if the disclosure is to a member of the clergy specifically designated by the patient, among other persons. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.  
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.