

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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H.B. 1677
By: Janek (Moncrief)
Health Services
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Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, two vaccines are available which can decrease morbidity and mortality due to pneumonia in the elderly. The influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are both covered by Medicare and Medicaid for anyone over the age of 65. Despite their availability, many elderly adults do not receive these recommended immunizations. As adults become older and more susceptible to infections, the vaccines become less effective; therefore, it is recommended that elderly persons in nursing homes as well as persons who reside or work in the same environment be immunized. H.B. 1677 would require certain immunizations for elderly residents of nursing homes.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1677 requires immunization for elderly residents of nursing homes.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Board of Health in SECTION 1 (Section 161.0051(b) and (c), Health and Safety Code) and to the Texas Board of Human Services in SECTION 2 (Section 242.037, Health and Safety Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 161A, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 161.0051, as follows:

Sec. 161.0051. **REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS FOR NURSING HOMES.** Provides that this section only applies to certain nursing homes. Authorizes the Texas Board of Health (board), by rule, to require nursing homes to offer, in accordance with an immunization schedule adopted by the board, immunizations to elderly residents or to staff who are in contact with elderly residents against disease that the board makes certain determinations on. Requires the board, by rule, to require nursing homes to offer in accordance with an immunization schedule adopted by the board certain vaccines.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 242.037, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subsection (h), to require the Texas Board of Human Services to adopt each rule adopted by the board under Section 161.0051 as part of the rules and standards adopted under this chapter that apply to institutions serving residents who are elderly persons.

SECTION 3. Requires the Texas Department of Health to coordinate with the Texas Department of Human Services to ensure that certain action is taken.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 5. Emergency clause.