

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R12805 MCK-D

C.S.S.B. 983
By: Madla
Human Services
4/28/1999
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Currently, the Texas Department of Health defines a branch office for home health agencies' license requirements as being within 70 miles of a main office. However, there are many remote areas of Texas which cannot be reached within 70 miles of anything. Ten years ago, the Health Care Financing Administration first instructed its surveyors that driving time and distance should not be used as a criteria in evaluating a branch office. C.S.S.B. 983 requires the commissioner of health and human services to contact the federal Health Care Financing Administration to request the adoption of certain rules regarding modern methods of communication and driving distance requirements.

PURPOSE

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 983 requires the commissioner of health and human services to contact the federal Health Care Financing Administration to request the adoption of certain rules.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Requires the commissioner of health and human services to contact the federal Health Care Financing Administration to request the adoption of rules which allow certain agencies to use modern methods of communication, eliminate driving distance requirements, or allow the state to set its own driving distance requirements.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1.

Deletes text of proposed SECTION 1, and adds text regarding a request that the federal Health Care Financing Administration adopt certain rules.

SECTION 2.

Redesignated from SECTION 3.

SECTION 3.

Redesignated from SECTION 4.