

SUBJECT: Requiring HHSC to create plan to increase behavioral health workforce

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — S. Thompson, Frank, Guerra, Lucio, Ortega, Price, Sheffield,
Zedler

0 nays

3 absent — Wray, Allison, Coleman

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cynthia Humphrey, Association of Substance Abuse Programs; Jo DePrang, Children's Defense Fund - Texas; Christina Hoppe, Children's Hospital Association of Texas; Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Tim Schauer, Community Health Choice; Kennedi Wilson, Doctors for Change; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Julia Egler and Greg Hansch, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers - Texas; Josette Saxton, Texans Care for Children; Marshall Kenderdine, Texas Academy of Family Physicians; Windy Johnson, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; Lee Johnson, Texas Council of Community Centers; Reginald Smith, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition; Cameron Duncan, Texas Hospital Association; Chris Frandsen, Texas League Of Women Voters; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association; Lee Nichols, TexProtects - Champions for Safe Children; Nataly Saucedo, United Ways of Texas; and 29 individuals)

Against — None

On — Colleen Horton, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Carissa Dougherty and Trina Ita, Health and Human Services Commission; Tanya Lavelle, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health)

DIGEST: HB 1669 would require the Health and Human Services Commission to

develop and implement a comprehensive plan to increase and improve the workforce in Texas to serve individuals with mental health and substance use issues.

To develop the plan, the commission would have to analyze and consider available studies, reports, and recommendations on that segment of the workforce in Texas or elsewhere. The bill would require the plan to include:

- a strategy and timeline for implementing the plan, including short-, medium-, and long-term goals;
- a system for monitoring implementation; and
- a method for evaluating the plan's outcomes.

The commission would be required to develop and begin implementing the plan by September 1, 2020.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.