

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 273  
By: Zaffirini  
Health & Human Services  
2-3-97  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, almost all the funds Texans spend on programs for seniors fall under the category of "long-term care." Seventy percent of the entire Long-term Care Continuum appropriation is dedicated to payments to nursing homes. Many senior Texans make poor choices about the kind and amount of "long-term care" they need. A consumer guide regarding such "long-term care" has been recommended by the Texas Performance Review Recommendation. This bill would require the comptroller to develop and update such a consumer guide for senior citizens.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 273 provides for development and updating of a senior citizen consumer guide by the comptroller.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Board on Aging under SECTION 2 (Sections 101.031 and 101.032, Human Resources Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 403A, Government Code, by adding Section 403.026, as follows:

Sec. 403.026. SENIOR CITIZEN CONSUMER GUIDE; INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP. Requires the comptroller to develop and periodically update a statewide consumer guide for senior citizens designed to assist senior citizens and their families in making informed choices regarding senior services. Sets forth requirements for the guide. Sets forth the composition and duties of an interagency work group created to assist the comptroller in developing and updating the guide. Provides that the work group is not subject to Article 6252-33, V.T.C.S., relating to state agency advisory committees. Authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission to shift resources between health and human service agencies as necessary to facilitate the development of the guide. Requires the comptroller to make the guide available in print, electronic format, and through the Internet.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 101B, Human Resources Code, by adding Sections 101.031 and 101.032, as follows:

Sec. 101.031. SENIOR CITIZEN CONSUMER GUIDE SUPPORT. Requires the Texas Board on Aging (board) to require, by rule, an area agency on aging to identify the allocation of agency resources dedicated to the senior consumer guide.

Sec. 101.032. STANDARD FORMATS FOR SERVICE PROVIDER LISTINGS. Requires the board to adopt, by rule, standard formats to be used in listing service providers in the senior consumer guide.

SECTION 3. Requires the Texas Board on Aging to adopt the formats required by Section 101.032, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act, no later than October 15, 1997.

SECTION 4. Requires the comptroller to complete development and make available the senior

citizen consumer guide required by Section 403.026, Government Code, as added by this Act, no later than January 1, 1998.

SECTION 5. Requires the interagency work group created under Section 403.026(b), Government Code, as added by this Act, to prepare and deliver to the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over human services a report regarding the effectiveness of the senior citizen consumer guide, required by Section 403.026, Government Code, as added by this Act, no later than January 15, 1999.

SECTION 6. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.