

- SUBJECT:** Expansion of the Health Professions Council
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Berlanga, Janek, Maxey, McDonald, Rodriguez
0 nays
4 absent — Hirschi, Coleman, Delisi, Glaze
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 25 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** None
- BACKGROUND:** In 1993 the Legislature created the Health Professions Council to provide a forum for licensing boards and agencies to address matters of mutual interest and concern. Lowering administrative and operating costs was a primary goal through sharing resources, databases, office space and personnel.
- Each licensing agency has one representative on the council. However, there are a number of agencies that fall under the auspices of the Texas Department of Health and those agencies combined have only one representative on the council.
- DIGEST:** SB 1488 would expand the membership of the Health Professions Council (HPC) by adding the following agencies: The Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners, the professional licensing division of the Texas Department of Health, the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers, the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, the State Committee of Examiners in the Fitting and Dispensing of Hearing Instruments, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Texas Board of Nursing Facility Administrators, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Perfusionists, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, the Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists, the Texas State Board of Social Workers Examiners and the Physician Assistant Advisory

Council. Each of these agencies would have one representative on the HPC and that representative would have to be appointed as soon as possible after SB 1488 took effect. Until all appointments have been made, a majority of the members of the council who have already qualified would constitute a quorum.

The bill would eliminate a memorandum of understanding with the General Services Commission regarding relocating staff members of the boards on the council, a study of relocating the health licensing division of the health department and report of a uniform budget plan to the 74th Legislature.

SB 1488 would require the HPC to report to the 74th and 75th Legislatures regarding any feasible consolidation of administrative functions of the boards on the HPC.

SB 1488 would require the Legislative Budget Board, the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning and the professional licensing division of the Texas Department of Health to coordinate efforts in determining costs and functions of all the boards represented on the council.

SB 1488 would take immediate effect if approved by two thirds of the membership of each house.