

SUBJECT: Creating a prostate cancer education program

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 5 ayes — Berlanga, Coleman, Delisi, Glaze, Maxey
0 nays
4 absent — Hirschi, Janek, McDonald, Rodriguez

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 10 — 31-0

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: CSSB 1685 would require the commissioner of health to develop and implement a program to educate the public on the causes of prostate cancer and the value and methods of early detection, prevention and treatment.

The commissioner would be required to appoint a task force to make recommendations on strategies for educating the public. Task force members would not be entitled to compensation, per diem or expense reimbursement.

CSSB 1685 would take immediate effect if approved by two thirds of the members of each house.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSSB 1685 would help Texans confront a major public health problem, prostate cancer, that can be treated early or prevented, saving health care costs and improving the quality of live. An estimated 13,000 Texas men are diagnosed each year with prostate cancer, and about 2,000 men die from the disease.

OPPONENTS SAY: CSSB 1685 would be singling out one disease for special public health treatment and cost the state about \$85,000 - \$90,000 per year to carry out. Less costly approaches in educating the public may be through the use of public service announcements or private sector resources and activities of medical and other health care associations.

NOTES: The committee substitute differs from the Senate-passed version in that it would use Texas instead of national statistics for defining the extent of the problem of prostate cancer and require the commissioner to appoint a task force using existing resources.