

SUBJECT: Information required in an application for or renewal of a hospital license

COMMITTEE: Public Health —favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Delisi, Laubenberg, Coleman, Dawson, Jackson, McReynolds, Solis, Truitt, Zedler

0 nays

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Under current law, persons or governmental units must obtain a license from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) before establishing or maintaining a hospital in the state by submitting information that the DSHS, by rule only, may reasonably require in an application. License information provided by hospital license applicants can be requested by the public.

DIGEST: HB 3357 would add statutory requirements that an application for or renewal of a hospital license contain the name and social security number of:

- the sole proprietor, if the applicant was a sole proprietor;
- each general partner who was an individual, if the applicant was a partnership; or
- any individual who had at least a 25 percent ownership interest in the corporation, if the applicant was a corporation.

The DSHS still would have authority reasonably to require any other information in the application.

Under the bill, DSHS would have to post on its website a list of all of the individuals required to be named in applications for hospital licenses but would be barred from posting the individuals' social security numbers.

A hospital license could be renewed annually after payment of the required fee and submission of the application with the appropriate identification information.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2005, and would apply only to an application for an original license or renewal of a license submitted on or after that date.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 3357 would provide statutory clarification regarding the personal information DSHS could require of applicants for a hospital license. DSHS already is required by rule to collect the names and social security numbers of hospital license applicants. Making certain license information available on the Internet would allow the public to enjoy easier and more prompt access to the information. It also would save the DSHS time and manpower because it would not have to field as many requests for license information.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

The bill should add a provision statutorily to specify that, in addition to the prohibition against the release on its website, DSHS would be prohibited from ever releasing applicants' social security number information to the public.