

- SUBJECT:** Educating parents about the benefits of influenza immunization.
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Delisi, Jackson, Cohen, Coleman, Gonzales, S. King, Olivo, Truitt
0 nays
1 absent — Laubenberg
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tom Banning, Texas Academy of Family Physicians; Greg Herzog, Texas Medical Association; Mazie M. Jamison, Children’s Medical Center Dallas; Carrie Kroll, Texas Pediatric Society; Vicki Perkins, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital; Ruby Ramos, Texas Care for Children; Denise Rose, Texas Children’s Hospital; Bryan Sperry, Children’s Hospital Association of Texas)

Against — None

On — Jack Sims, Department of State Health Services; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Sasha Rasco, Department of Family and Protective Services)
- BACKGROUND:** Influenza is a highly infectious viral respiratory disease that can cause moderate to severe illness. Infants and young children are extremely susceptible to influenza infection because their immune systems are not fully developed, and children do not practice the rigorous hygienic behaviors that impede the spread of the influenza virus.

In 2003, the 78th Legislature enacted SB 486 by Zaffirini, which required the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to work with the Texas Education Agency to improve education among parents of preschool and school age children as to the benefits of immunizations. The bill also allowed private providers to participate in early childhood immunization programs. In 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended children from the age of six months to five years receive annual influenza vaccinations.

DIGEST:

CSHB 3184 would amend Health and Safety Code, sec. 161.0101 to require DSHS to work to increase education and participation among parents of children aged six months to five years about the benefits of annual immunization. This educational information would be published on DSHS's web site. DSHS also would be required to work with the Department of Family and Protective Services and child-care facilities to ensure that this educational information was distributed annually to parents in August or September, to coincide with the beginning of the school year.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.