

- SUBJECT:** Testing of persons exposing juvenile probation officers to disease
- COMMITTEE:** Corrections — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — McReynolds, Madden, Hodge, Kolkhorst, Marquez, Martinez, S. Miller, Ortiz, Sheffield
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Dutton, England
- WITNESSES:** For — Keith Branch, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Donald Lee, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; Jim Short, Harris County)
- Against — None
- On — Ann Robbins, Department of State Health Services, HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch)
- BACKGROUND:** The professional or volunteer services of certain individuals may put them at risk of contracting infectious diseases, including HIV, through involuntary contact with others.
- Under Health and Safety Code, sec. 81.050, if a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical service employee or paramedic, correctional officer, or employee, contractor, or volunteer in a correctional or secure detention facility may have been exposed to a reportable disease, he may request the Department of Health or a health authority to order the testing of the person who may have exposed him.
- A request may be made only if the person has experienced the exposure in the course of employment or volunteer service, believes the exposure places him at risk of a reportable disease, and presents the Department of Health or a health authority with a sworn affidavit that explains the reasons for the request.

DIGEST:

HB 3005 would allow an employee of a juvenile probation department who may have been exposed to a reportable disease, including HIV, to request testing of the person who may have exposed him, adding these employees to Health and Safety Code, sec. 81.050.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2009, and would apply only to exposures that took place on or after this date.