

- SUBJECT:** Continuation of the Texas Bleeding Disorders Advisory Council
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Kolkhorst, Naishtat, Gonzales, Hopson, S. King, McReynolds, Zerwas
- 0 nays
- 4 absent — Coleman, J. Davis, Laubenberg, Truitt
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 24 — 30-0
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Katherine Zackel, Texans Care for Children)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Bleeding Disorders Advisory Council, created when the 80th Legislature in 2007 enacted by SB 1566 by Patrick, advises the Department Of State Health Services and was instructed to study:
- changes in state policy that affect the health and wellness of Texans with bleeding disorders;
 - changes in state policy that affect Medicaid reimbursement for specific medications;
 - best practices and standards of care;
 - the creation of programs based in the community that would spread information to various audiences about services and activities for people living with hemophilia and other bleeding or clotting disorders; and
 - the coordination of public and private support systems for people living with bleeding or clotting disorders with their primary caregivers.

Bleeding and clotting disorders include both genetic and acquired diseases such as hemophilia, Von Willebrand Disease, and thrombophilia. The

council presented its findings to the Legislature in a report published in December 2008, and is scheduled to expire on September 1, 2009.

DIGEST:

SB 1837 would extend the date on which the Texas Bleeding Disorders Advisory Council would be abolished to September 1, 2013. The council would report its findings and recommendations to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House by December 1 of each even-numbered year. The health and human services commissioner could accept gifts, grants, and donations on behalf of the council.

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, 2009.