

SUBJECT: Extending freestanding medical emergency care facility license terms

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Kolkhorst, Naishtat, Alvarado, S. Davis, V. Gonzales, S. King,
Laubenberg, Schwertner, Truitt, Zerwas

0 nays

1 absent — Coleman

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brad Shields, Texas Association of
Free-Standing Emergency Centers)

Against — None

On — Heather Vasek, Texas Independent Emergency Room Association;
Patrick Waldron, Texas Department of State Health Services

BACKGROUND: A freestanding emergency medical care facility is structurally separate and
distinct from a hospital. These facilities evaluate and stabilize people with
severe medical conditions that potentially jeopardize their health.

Currently, a license for a freestanding emergency medical care facility is
valid for one year, and the facility must renew and pay fees on it annually.

DIGEST: HB 3085 would change the license term of a freestanding emergency
medical care facility to two years and require payment of fees upon
renewal.

HB 3085 would take effect September 1, 2011, and would apply only to
licenses issued or renewed on or after September 1, 2011.