

SUBJECT: Permitting DSHS to treat certain nonresident tuberculosis patients

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Kolkhorst, Naishtat, Collier, Cortez, S. Davis, Guerra, S. King, Laubenberg, J.D. Sheffield, Zedler

0 nays

1 absent — Coleman

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 7 — 29-0

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Miryam Bujanda, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association)

Against — None

On — Charles Wallace, Department of State Health Services

DIGEST: SB 807 would allow the commissioner of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to admit a person with tuberculosis to the Texas Center for Infectious Disease or the Rio Grande State Center if the person was in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or another federal agency and was either awaiting completion of deportation or political asylum proceedings or had been released from custody pending completion of those proceedings.

The bill would require DSHS to attempt to recover the costs associated with the patient's treatment from the appropriate federal agency.

SB 807 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, 2013.