

SUBJECT: Requiring a strategic plan to reduce HPV-associated cancer

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 10 ayes — Crownover, Naishtat, Blanco, Coleman, Collier, Guerra, R. Miller, Sheffield, Zedler, Zerwas

0 nays

1 absent — S. Davis

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Cam Scott, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Juliana Kerker, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District XI (Texas); Mariah Ramon, Teaching Hospitals of Texas; Alice Bufkin, Texans Care for Children; Darren Whitehurst, Texas Medical Association; Kevin Cooper, Texas Nurse Practitioners; Susan Lemons)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Barbara Harless, North Texas Citizens Lobby; MerryLynn Gerstenschlager, Texas Eagle Forum)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Wayne Roberts, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas; Kathleen Schmeler, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center)

DIGEST: CSHB 1282 would require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to develop a strategic plan to significantly reduce morbidity and mortality from human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cancer.

DSHS would be required to collaborate with the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and could convene any necessary workgroups to develop the plan. Members of the workgroup could include health care providers and researchers, educators, HPV-associated cancer survivors, members of community- and faith-based organizations, and representatives from at-risk populations.

In developing the strategic plan, DSHS would consider the prevention, screening, and treatment for HPV-associated cancer. Development of the plan would include:

- identifying barriers to effective prevention, screening, and treatment and methods to increase the numbers of people screened and vaccinated;
- reviewing current technologies and best practices for HPV-associated cancer screening, as well as technologies related to diagnosis and prevention of HPV infection;
- developing methods for creating partnerships to increase awareness of HPV-associated cancer and of preventive and diagnostic measures;
- reviewing current prevention, screening, treatment, and related activities in this state and identifying areas in which the services for those activities are lacking;
- estimating direct and indirect state health care costs associated with HPV-associated cancer;
- identifying actions necessary to increase vaccination and screening rates and reduce the morbidity and mortality from HPV-associated cancer and establish a schedule for implementing those actions; and
- making recommendations to the Legislature on policy changes and funding needed to implement the strategic plan.

DSHS would be required to deliver to the governor and members of the Legislature the strategic plan and recommendations on goal implementation and schedule compliance related to the strategic plan by December 31, 2016.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 1282 could help to significantly reduce morbidity and mortality from human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cancers by directing Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to develop a strategic plan to address this widespread issue.

HPV infections affect about 79 million men and women, and cancers associated with the infection account for thousands of deaths each year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HPV infection also is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. HPV is responsible for many cervical cancers and is associated with a significant increase in oropharyngeal cancer, which is a type of cancer that can be located in the middle part of soft palate, the base of the tongue, and the tonsils. More than half of oropharyngeal cancers are linked to HPV, and it is estimated that HPV will cause more oropharyngeal cancers than cervical cancers in the United States by 2020. CSHB 1282 would help to advance research that could prevent or even identify a cure for HPV-associated cancers.

The strategic plan would be required to consider various preventive and diagnostic efforts, including ways of increasing access to the HPV vaccine, but in no way would the bill mandate vaccines and would not impact patients directly. The 85th Legislature could use the findings to take further action if it so chose.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

In requiring DSHS to develop a strategic plan on HPV-associated cancers, CSHB 1282 could amount to the state advocating for the HPV vaccine. The Legislature should be aware of the potential to send a message that could be at odds with the wishes of parents who might choose not to have their children vaccinated against HPV. The HPV vaccine could have risks associated with it that should be taken into consideration.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 1701 by Huffman, was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on March 23.