

SUBJECT: Release by a hospital of fetal remains

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Crownover, Naishtat, Blanco, S. Davis, Guerra, R. Miller, Sheffield, Zedler, Zerwas

0 nays

2 absent — Coleman, Collier

WITNESSES: For — Erica Raef; Joshua Raef; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jennifer Banda, Texas Hospital Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Allison Hughes, Department of State Health Services; John Seago, Texas Right to Life)

BACKGROUND: State law does not require a hospital to release the remains of an unintended, intrauterine fetal death on the request of a parent. Some have called for hospitals to be required to release fetal remains to a parent upon request.

DIGEST: HB 635 would require a hospital to release the remains of an unintended, intrauterine fetal death on the request of a parent of an unborn child, in a manner appropriate under law and the hospital's practice for disposition of a human body.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.