

- SUBJECT:** Improving patient access to cancer clinical trials
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Price, Sheffield, Arévalo, Burkett, Coleman, Collier, Cortez, Guerra, Klick, Zedler
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Oliverson
- WITNESSES:** For — Dorothy Paredes; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Cam Scott, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Rick Hardcastle, Celltex Therapeutics; V.A. Stephens and Michelle Wittenburg, KK125; Sheila Hemphill, Texas Right To Know; and 12 individuals)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code, sec. 102.051 authorizes the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to make grants to medical research facilities and educational institutions to research the causes and cures of cancer, fund research facilities, and develop cancer prevention and control programs.
- Sec. 102.203 governs authorized uses of money in the Cancer Prevention and Research Fund, a dedicated account in general revenue. Authorized uses include payment of research expenses, honoraria, salaries and benefits, supplies, operating expenses, travel, conference fees, capital equipment, and construction.
- Observers have noted a need to improve the size and diversity of the participation pool in cancer clinical trials. Although significant health disparities exist among socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, and regional groups, diverse participation is hindered by the costs of participating in a research study, including transportation and lodging expenses.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 3721 would allow the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to make grants for programs designed to encourage access to and participation in cancer clinical trials, associated research, and community outreach.

The bill would allow money in the Cancer Prevention and Research Fund to be used to reimburse study participants for costs related to participation in a cancer clinical trial, including travel and lodging expenses.

The bill also would require the CPRIT Oversight Committee to create ad hoc committees of experts to address access to and participation in cancer clinical trials.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.