

SUBJECT: Exempting satellite drug treatment programs from licensing requirements

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — S. Thompson, Frank, Guerra, Lucio, Ortega, Price, Sheffield, Zedler

0 nays

3 absent — Wray, Allison, Coleman

WITNESSES: For — Cynthia Humphrey, Association of Substance Abuse Programs; Ross Robinson, Hill Country MHDD Centers; Rebecca Lange, Llano County; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lee Johnson, Texas Council of Community Centers; Allison Greer, The Center for Health Care Services)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code sec. 464.002 prohibits any person from offering or purporting to offer chemical dependency treatment without a license.

TAC sec. 448.401(b) requires each facility providing or offering chemical dependency treatment to have a license for each physical location at which it provides residential or outpatient services.

Interested parties note that for some drug treatment facilities in rural areas, it is not economically feasible to have a separate license for each satellite outpatient program.

DIGEST: CSHB 4298 would exempt satellite offices of outpatient chemical dependency care facilities from licensing requirements if the provider was operating under the supervision of a licensed care facility and the services delivered fell within the scope of the supervising facility's license.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would result in negative fiscal impact of \$84,000 to general revenue related funds through fiscal 2020-21.