

SUBJECT: Allowing local health departments to participate as providers in Medicaid

COMMITTEE: Human Services — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Deshotel, Klick, Meza, Miller, Noble, Rose

0 nays

1 absent — Clardy

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 3 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: For — Stephen Williams, City of Houston; George Roberts, Texas Association of City and County Health Officials; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Stephanie Hayden, City of Austin; Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso; Jon Weist, City of Irving; Christine Wright, City of San Antonio; Tim Schauer, Community Health Choice; Aimee Bertrand, Harris County Commissioners Court; Bill Kelly, City of Houston Mayor's Office; Eric Kunish, National Alliance on Mental Illness Austin; Duane Galligher, Texas Environmental Health Association; Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Kimberly Lovejoy)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Andy Vasquez, Health and Human Services Commission)

BACKGROUND: Interested parties have suggested that barriers to participation in the Medicaid program by local health departments and certain health service regional offices should be eased or removed.

DIGEST: CSSB 2021 would require the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish a separate provider type for local health departments, including health service regional offices acting in the capacity of local health departments, for purposes of enrollment as a provider for and reimbursement under Medicaid.

The bill would define "health service regional office" as an office located in a public health region and administered by a regional director.

HHSC would have to implement the provisions of the bill only if the Legislature appropriated money specifically for that purpose.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2020.