

SUBJECT: Requiring DSHS to establish bone marrow donor recruitment program

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Klick, Guerra, Allison, Campos, Coleman, Jetton, Oliverson,
Price, Smith

0 nays

2 absent — Collier, Zwiener

WITNESSES: For — Yusuf Khan; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Shayne Woodard,
Donate Life Texas; Joe Pojman, Texas Alliance for Life; Dan Finch,
Texas Medical Association; Jackson Milton, Texas Right to Life; Randy
Cubriel; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: 42 U.S.C. sec. 274k establishes the National Bone Marrow Donor
Registry.

DIGEST: CSHB 780 would require the Department of State Health Services
(DSHS) to establish a bone marrow donor recruitment program to educate
Texas residents about:

- the need for bone marrow donors, including those from minority populations;
- the requirements for registering with the federally authorized bone marrow donor registry under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 274k as a potential bone marrow donor, including procedures for determining an individual's tissue type;
- the medical procedures an individual would have to undergo to donate bone marrow or other sources of blood stem cells; and
- the availability of bone marrow donation information in health care facilities, blood banks, and driver's license offices.

DSHS, in consultation with the federally authorized bone marrow donor registry, would have to develop written and electronic informational materials, including links to websites, on bone marrow donation and the federal registry's registration process. The federally authorized bone marrow donor registry could develop and provide the required informational materials.

The bill would require DSHS and the Department of Public Safety to post the required information on each agency's respective website. Appropriate health care facilities, blood banks, and driver's license offices could access and print the posted materials to place in their respective facilities to provide to Texas residents.

As soon as practicable after the bill's effective date, DSHS would have to establish the bone marrow donor recruitment program and obtain the required informational materials.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 780 would increase awareness of bone marrow donation in Texas. Bone marrow donations are critical for assisting individuals diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia, sickle cell disease, and lymphoma. By requiring bone marrow donation materials to be posted online on the Department of State Health Services and Department of Public Safety's websites, the bill would help make information accessible to Texans on how they could become potential bone marrow donors.

A patient's chances of finding a donor match vary widely based on their ethnic background, and minorities generally have a smaller likelihood of finding an appropriate bone marrow donor. Texas is an ethnically diverse state, and requiring the recruitment program to advertise the need for bone marrow donors from minority populations could help increase chances of finding an appropriate match.

CRITICS
SAY:

CSHB 780 is unnecessary because it would duplicate existing bone marrow donation awareness efforts by private charitable organizations.