

SUBJECT:	Establishing a plan for HPV prevention in higher education institutions
COMMITTEE:	Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	8 ayes — Kuempel, Paul, Burns, Clardy, Cole, Howard, Lalani, Raney 0 nays 3 absent — Bucy, Burrows, M. González
WITNESSES:	<p>For — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>: Garry Jones, DFER; Rachel Hill, Equality Texas; Jennifer Biundo, Healthy Futures of Texas; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Maureen Milligan, Teaching Hospitals of Texas; Matt Dowling, Caitlin Flanders, Texas Medical Association; Jill Sutton, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; Kristen Lenau, Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition; Cynthia Van Maanen, Travis County Democratic Party; and 26 individuals)</p> <p>Against — (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>: Joshua Medeiros, Young Conservative Federation)</p> <p>On — Michelle Evans, Texans for Vaccine Choice (<i>Registered, but did not testify</i>: Imelda Garcia; Grace Kubin, Department of State Health Services)</p>
BACKGROUND:	Some have suggested the implementation of a strategic human papillomavirus (HPV) prevention plan to facilitate coordination between state resources and institutions of higher education could help to reach those who were not vaccinated at the recommended age.
DIGEST:	HB 989 would require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to use existing resources and programs to the extent possible, to develop a state plan for preventing and treating human papillomavirus (HPV), and the health problems caused by the infection among students enrolled at institutions of higher education. The plan would be required to include strategies for preventing and treating HPV and related health problems in

specific demographic groups that were disproportionately affected.

In developing the plan, DSHS would seek the advice of:

- the public, including advocates who have HPV;
- each state agency providing services to persons infected with HPV, or that was assigned duties related to health problems caused by HPV, such as the Health and Human Services Commission and its coordinating board;
- any advisory committee that addressed health issues related to health to HPV;
- public advocates concerned with issues related to HPV;
- providers of services to persons with health problems caused by HPV; and
- a statewide professional association of physicians.

DSHS would be required to review and modify the plan as necessary at least once every five years and would be permitted to update the plan biennially.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and DSHS would be required to jointly develop a program to heighten awareness and enhance knowledge and understanding of HPV among students enrolled at institutions of higher education.

The program would be required to:

- conduct health education, public awareness, and community outreach activities to promote public awareness regarding HPV; and
- post available options for the prevention, treatment, and detection of HPV as well as certain information regarding risk factors, transmission methods, and the value of early detection on the board's and the department's respective websites.

The coordinating board and DSHS could use existing resources to conduct a study to estimate the current and future impact of health problems

caused by HPV on the state of Texas.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.