

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
81R4005 CS-F

S.B. 526  
By: Nelson, Uresti  
Health & Human Services  
2/27/2009  
As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Over 200 Texas counties are designated as medically underserved areas. Federally qualified health centers (FQHC) provide health care services to low income and medically underserved communities. S.B. 610, 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, directed the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to create the FQHC incubator program to make grants to establish new or expand existing facilities that can qualify as FQHCs. This program is set to expire on September 1, 2009.

As proposed, S.B. 526 deletes language providing that the FQHC grant program expires on September 1, 2009, and authorizes the program to make grants to maintain existing FQHC facilities.

[**Note:** While the statutory reference in this bill is to the Texas Department of Health (TDH), the following amendments affect the Department of State Health Services, as the successor agency to TDH.]

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 31.017, Health and Safety Code, as follows:

Sec. 31.017. **FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.** Authorizes the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to make grants to establish new, or expand or maintain existing, facilities, rather than make grants to establish new or expand existing facilities, that can qualify as federally qualified health centers, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 1396d(1)(2)(B), in this state, including planning grants, developing grants, capital improvement grants, and grants for transitional operating support. Deletes existing Subsection (b), providing that this subsection expires September 1, 2009.

SECTION 2. Effective date: August 31, 2009.