

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 160
By: Nelson
Public Health
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Current Texas law does not address the need for educating individuals regarding anatomical gifts. S.B. 160 requires the Texas Department of Health to develop a program to educate health care providers and attorneys on human organ donation and encourages medical and nursing schools to include organ donation education classes in their curriculum.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

Amends Chapter 49 of the Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 49.002 which requires TDH to develop an educational program for health care providers and attorneys on human organ donations. SB 160 also requires TDH to encourage attorneys to provide information concerning organ donations to individuals seeking legal counsel for end-of-life decisions. TDH is required to encourage medical and nursing schools in Texas to include organ donation education classes in their curriculum. SB 160 requires TDH to encourage medical schools in Texas to require a physician in either a neurology or neurosurgery residency program to complete an advanced course in organ donation education. TDH is required to implement the program only to the extent that funds are available.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003