

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.S.B. 253
By: Staples
Higher Education
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) has the responsibility for licensing and regulating youth camps. Since institution of higher education conduct summer activities on their campus, they are considered to be “camps” and therefore can be regulated by TDH. As proposed, CSSB 253 amends the Health and Safety Code to exempt a facility or program operated by or on the campus of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education from the provision the Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act (Health and Safety Code, Chapter 141). This bill prevents duplicative measures taken with additional inspections by the TDH, because institution of higher education are already required to meet local health and safety regulations as well as accreditation standards.

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

CSSB 253 amends Chapter 141, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 141.0021 to provide an exemption from regulation as a “Youth Camp” by the Texas Department of Health for public, private and independent institutions of higher education that are regularly inspected by one or more local governmental entities for compliance with health and safety standards.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

CSSB 253 modifies the original to clarify that institutions that are regularly inspected for health and safety compliance by one or more governmental entities are exempt from Texas Department of Health regulation.