BILL ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Nonprofit health corporations in Texas must be certified by the State Board of Medical Examiners to contract with or employ physicians and Texas non-profit corporations organized and operated as federally qualified health centers are eligible for such certification. These centers provide necessary health care services in impoverished areas along the Texas-Mexico border but questions exist regarding their ability to employ physicians because of their arrangement with public entity hospitals.

House Bill 1924 clarifies the ability of a federally qualified health center administered by a public entity hospital district and located in a county that borders Mexico to employ physicians.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the State Board of Medical Examiners in SECTION 1 (Sec. 162.001(c), Occupations Code) of this bill.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1   Amends Chapter 162, Occupations Code, by amending Section 162.001 to allow the State Board of Medical Examiners to certify a health organization to contract with or employ physicians licensed by the board if the organization is a hospital district recognized by a federal agency as a public entity for the purposes of receiving a grant related to a community or federally qualified health center organized and operated as a migrant, community, or homeless health center under the authority of and in compliance with 42 U.S.C. Section 254b or 254c or a federally recognized health center under 42 U.S.C. Section 1396d(1)(2)(B) and is located in a county that borders the United Mexican States.

SECTION 2   This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2005

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

The committee substitute corrected a few drafting errors in the introduced version of the bill. The substitute did not change the effect of the bill.