

AN ACT

relating to the disclosure of certain confidential health information to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 241.1531 to read as follows:

Sec. 241.1531. EXCHANGE OF INMATE'S HEALTH CARE INFORMATION. Notwithstanding any other law of this state, the health care information of a patient who is a defendant or inmate confined in a facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice may be exchanged between health care personnel of the department and health care personnel of The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston or the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The authorization of the defendant or inmate is not required for the exchange of information.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by Section 241.1531, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, is intended to clarify rather than change existing law.

SECTION 3. 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, 2005.

---

President of the Senate

---

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2195 was passed by the House on April 22, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

---

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2195 was passed by the Senate on May 25, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

---

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

---

Governor