

Suspending limitations on conference committee  
jurisdiction, H.B. No. 1126 (Uresti/Madla)

By: Uresti

H.R. No. 2251

R E S O L U T I O N

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of  
2 Texas, 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, That House Rule 13,  
3 Section 9(a), be suspended in part as provided by House Rule 13,  
4 Section 9(f), to enable the conference committee appointed to  
5 resolve the differences on House Bill 1126 (emergency medical  
6 services vehicles and personnel and the collection and use of  
7 certain health-related data) to consider and take action on the  
8 following matter:

9 House Rule 13, Section 9(a)(4), is suspended to permit the  
10 committee to add the following new SECTIONS to read as follows:

11 SECTION 1. Section 104.042(e), Health and Safety Code, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (e) Data received by the department under this section  
14 containing information identifying specific patients [~~persons or~~  
15 ~~health care facilities~~] is confidential, is not subject to  
16 disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, and may not be  
17 released unless the [~~all identifying~~] information identifying the  
18 patient is removed. This subsection does not authorize the release  
19 of information that is confidential under Chapter 108.

20 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 104, Health and Safety  
21 Code, is amended by adding Section 104.044 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 104.044. SORTING COLLECTED DATA. (a) The department  
23 shall compile the health data collected under this subchapter and  
24 organize the results, to the extent possible, according to the

1 following geographic areas:

2 (1) the Texas-Mexico border region;

3 (2) each public health region;

4 (3) rural areas;

5 (4) urban areas;

6 (5) each county; and

7 (6) the state.

8 (b) Health data released under this subchapter must be  
9 released in accordance with the way it is compiled under this  
10 section.

11 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 191, Health and Safety  
12 Code, is amended by adding Section 191.008 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 191.008. SORTING COLLECTED DATA. (a) The department  
14 shall compile the information relating to births, deaths, and fetal  
15 deaths collected under this chapter and organize the results, to  
16 the extent possible, according to the following geographic areas:

17 (1) the Texas-Mexico border region;

18 (2) each public health region;

19 (3) rural areas;

20 (4) urban areas;

21 (5) each county; and

22 (6) the state.

23 (b) The department may release the information relating to  
24 births, deaths, and fetal deaths in accordance with the way it is  
25 compiled under this section.

26 SECTION 8. The change in law made by this Act to Chapters  
27 104 and 191, Health and Safety Code, applies only to the furnishing

1 of data under Chapters 104 and 191, Health and Safety Code, or a  
2 rule adopted under that chapter that is originally required to be  
3 furnished on or after the effective date of this Act. The  
4 furnishing of data originally required to be furnished before the  
5 effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed  
6 immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect  
7 for that purpose.

8 SECTION 9. The Department of State Health Services shall  
9 consult with a group of affected persons and entities to define  
10 rural and urban areas for purposes of Sections 104.044 and 191.008,  
11 Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, including:

12 (1) individuals with expertise in rural health  
13 services research, epidemiology, rural public health services  
14 delivery, demography, health planning, and large data sets; and

15 (2) representatives from universities, the Department  
16 of State Health Services, the Office of Rural Community Affairs,  
17 area health education centers, and local and county health  
18 departments.

19 Explanation: The changes are necessary to require the  
20 Department of State Health Services to compile and organize certain  
21 health and vital statistics related data by region, and to protect  
22 the confidentiality of the data collected.