

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 1517
By: Eissler
County Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Montgomery County Hospital District was created by the 75th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 1997. It has a duty to provide indigent health care services to eligible residents. The Montgomery County Hospital District does not currently own a public hospital, but pays for indigent health care services to eligible residents through its network of health care providers. Current law affords counties and public hospital certain protections, benefits, and limits of fiscal liability.

H.B. 1517 gives Montgomery County Hospital District the authority to establish the maximum liability for each fiscal year for health services provided to an eligible resident at an amount commensurate with the maximum county liability. The bill gives Montgomery County Hospital District the authority to select mandated providers of health care services to eligible residents of the district, similar to that afforded to public hospitals. The bill requires providers of non-emergency and emergency services to eligible residents to provide timely notice of the provisions.

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

H.B. 1517 amends Section 5, Chapter 258, Acts of the 65th Legislature, Regular Session, 1977, to authorize the Montgomery County Hospital District to exercise any power, in addition to the powers the district is otherwise provided, granted to a county or a public hospital under certain provisions of the Indigent Health Care and Treatment Act, as those sections exist on September 30, 2009, including the power to require a person to comply with a corresponding duty.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2009.