

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 1639  
By: Hopson  
Public Safety  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Currently, an employee commissioned as a peace officer under the Texas Pharmacy Act has the powers, privileges, and immunities of a peace officer while carrying out duties as a peace officer under that act except that the employee may not carry a firearm or make an arrest. Because of the diversion of legal drugs to street drugs, it is important to protect our pharmacy inspectors.

H.B. 1639 allows a peace officer commissioned under the Texas Pharmacy Act to carry a firearm and to make an arrest.

### **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. 1639 amends the Occupations Code to remove the prohibition against carrying a firearm or making an arrest for an employee commissioned as a peace officer by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy under the Texas Pharmacy Act.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

On passage, or, if the act does not receive the necessary vote, the act takes effect September 1, 2009.