

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1757

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality of methods for disposing of unused pharmaceuticals so that they do not enter a wastewater system.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "commission" means the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(b) The commission shall study and make recommendations regarding the methods to be used by consumers, health care providers, and others for disposing of unused pharmaceuticals so that they do not enter a wastewater system. In conducting the study, the commission shall consider:

(1) the methods currently used in this state by consumers, health care providers, and others for that purpose;

(2) alternative methods used for that purpose, including the methods used in other states; and

(3) the effects on public health and the environment of the various methods used for that purpose.

(c) In conducting the study, the commission may solicit input from:

(1) the Health and Human Services Commission;

(2) the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas;

(3) pharmaceutical manufacturers;

- 1 (4) pharmacies;
- 2 (5) health care providers, including home health care
- 3 providers;
- 4 (6) hospitals;
- 5 (7) clinics;
- 6 (8) long-term care facilities;
- 7 (9) entities that engage in medical waste processing
- 8 and handling;
- 9 (10) solid waste management service providers;
- 10 (11) local governments;
- 11 (12) ranchers and farmers;
- 12 (13) end users of medication;
- 13 (14) water utilities and other water suppliers;
- 14 (15) the United States Postal Service;
- 15 (16) the United States Environmental Protection
- 16 Agency; and
- 17 (17) any other entity the commission considers
- 18 necessary.

19 (d) Not later than December 1, 2010, the commission shall
20 submit a report of the results of the study to the legislature. The
21 report must include:

- 22 (1) the commission's recommendations regarding the
- 23 methods to be used by consumers, health care providers, and others
- 24 for disposing of unused pharmaceuticals so that they do not enter a
- 25 wastewater system; and
- 26 (2) an analysis of the feasibility of implementing the
- 27 recommended disposal methods on a statewide basis.

1 (e) This Act expires January 1, 2011.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.