

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 978  
By: Raymond  
Public Health  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Currently, relatives and family members are among the individuals a court may permit to transport a detained mental health patient to a mental health facility. There is concern that a relative or other caregiver responsible for such a patient's well-being lacks the professional training, experience, and knowledge needed to safely transport a mental health patient. To address this concern, H.B. 978 seeks to exclude them from the list of authorized transporters.

### **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. 978 amends the Health and Safety Code to remove a relative or other responsible person who has a proper interest in a patient's welfare and who receives no remuneration, except for actual and necessary expenses, from the list of people who may be authorized by a court to transport to a mental health facility a patient committed to the facility or admitted to the facility for emergency detention.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2013.