

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For HB 1510

Compiled on: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:09 PM

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Hearing Date: March 13, 2023 9:00 AM

Marlene Boyd
self- RN
New Branufels, TX
HB 1510

We have not yet done due diligence on researching herb alternatives that do not have psychological effects that an increase in the percentage of marijuana would have. This increase in percentage would increase the rate of addiction and would have a negative impact on our youth and their future.

Ashley Crutchfield
Self – attorney
Austin, TX

I am the former Staff Attorney for TFSC. While I appreciate the need for change to the State Anatomical Board, I object to transferring its duties to TFSC.

It is my experience that TFSC is woefully understaffed, overwhelmed, and inefficient. It cannot handle its current duties, much less any additional ones. In my opinion, both TFSC and the Anatomical Board should be absorbed by TDLR.

Brittany Henry, Ms

Self

Cedar Park, TX

To whom this may concern,

I wish to register comments in opposition to the TFSC taking control of such a serious and delicate matter. In the interest of discretion and brevity, I will simply state that in its current configuration and leadership, the commission is woefully underprepared and ill equipped to handle such a sensitive matter. It lacks the staffing, the training and the funds to perform even the most rudimentary of duties and responsibilities with regards to the responsibilities of deceased persons, the idea that they would be capable of handling human tissue and organs destined for the living is shocking and negligent at best. I cannot recommend in stronger terms, that the legislature prevent this course of action. With the deepest respect to the current executive, Dr. White, with the limited resources he has this will lead only to more dissatisfied Texans calling the Commissioners and filing complaints that they do not have the staff to handle currently, and further the current staff should not have to bear the burden of this responsibility. This should be left to qualified persons at a larger agency with more funding, experience and oversight.

Kind Regards

Glenn Bower

Self - Funeral Director

New Braunfels, TX

During the 87th session, this consolidation was being considered. However, there was a disagreement on whether the for-profit tissue transplant companies would be brought under the jurisdiction of the State Anatomical Board (SAB). That very issue still has not been resolved with this bill. Furthermore, the Texas Funeral Service Commission (TFSC) is not equipped with the staff or the understanding of what the purpose of the State Anatomical Board is. The TFSC has 1 site inspector for the entire state of Texas; there are over 1500 licensed funeral establishments that this one person must inspect. Each licensed funeral establishment must renew their license through the TFSC annually. It takes approximately four months for the renewed license to be received at the funeral establishment; per administrative rule, a funeral establishment cannot conduct funeral services with an expired license issued by the TFSC.

The TFSC also has no ability to track all of the remains that are entrusted to the current SAB. The remains which are donated to the SAB for the medical schools may be divided as needed for the instruction of our medical students. With the lack of resources and understanding of the purpose of the SAB, the TFSC does not have the capability to take on this endeavor. This matter is actually too important of a subject to allow the TFSC to manage the remains. This bill is setting all of the stakeholders up for failure.

The TFSC also does not properly administer their current administrative penalties to their licensees. For the past four years, the TFSC has not be able to achieve their performance measure of 26 open complaints per quarter. They are averaging over 150 open consumer complaints a quarter. They are not protecting the citizens of Texas from deceptive funeral practitioners; how do you think they will protect the donated human remains which the people of Texas have entrusted them with.

I am opposed to this bill and I would strongly encourage this committee to reconsider the adoption of this legislation.