

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing bonds for Department of Health laboratory and office facilities

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 21 ayes — Junell, Delisi, Clemons, Conley, H. Cuellar, R. Cuellar, Gallego, Glaze, Gray, Greenberg, Harris, Heflin, Hernandez, Johnson, Kubiak, McDonald, Mowery, Ogden, Park, Swinford, S. Turner

0 nays

6 absent — Carona, Coleman, Cook, Davis, Haggerty, Raymond

**WITNESSES:** For — Dr. Alan Moore, Texas Society of Pathologists; Dr. R. R. Casso, Texas Board of Health

Against — None

On — Dr. David Smith, Texas Commissioner of Health

**DIGEST:** HB 2022 would authorize the Texas Public Finance Authority to issue \$42,300,000 in revenue bonds to construct laboratory and office facilities for the Texas Department of Health.

The bill would take effect immediately if approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** The Texas Department of Health is running out of office and laboratory space. In addition, the air conditioning system is inadequate and could present potential safety problems because the tuberculosis isolation laboratory shares the air conditioning system. The new buildings would be paid for through increased laboratory fees, and no general revenue funds would be needed to finance the project.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:** The companion bill, SB 1097 by Zaffirini, has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.