

- SUBJECT:** Allowing home health care agencies to possess vaccines and tuberculosis tests
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Berlanga, Hirschi, Coleman, Davila, Glaze, Maxey  
0 nays  
3 absent — Delisi, Janek, Rodriguez
- WITNESSES:** For — Heather Vasek, Texas Association for Home Care; Harold Freeman, Texas Medical Society; Julia R. Beechinor  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND :** The Health and Safety Code defines “home and community support services agency” as an entity that provides home health, hospice or personal assistance services for pay or other consideration in a client’s residence, an independent living environment or another appropriate location.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3075 would allow a home and community support services agency or registered nurses or licensed vocational nurses employed by the agency to purchase, store or transport hepatitis B vaccine, influenza vaccine and tuberculin (for tuberculosis tests) for the purposes of administering them under a doctor’s orders to the agency’s employees, home health or hospice patients, or patient family members.
- The bill would require that doctors' orders include specific directions, that the agency and its nurse employees follow certain procedures in handling and using the vaccines, and that the agency establish policies and procedures for administering its provisions. The bill also would require dispensing pharmacists to follow specified control measures.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 1997.