

SUBJECT: Authorizing TCADA to provide alcohol awareness courses

COMMITTEE: Public Health— favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 5 ayes — Berlanga, Hirschi, Davila, Glaze, Maxey
0 nays
4 absent — Coleman, Delisi, Janek, Rodriguez

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, February 3 — 26-0, 1 present not voting (Harris)

WITNESSES: For — None

BACKGROUND : The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) is responsible for developing, funding and evaluating chemical dependency prevention, intervention and treatment programs.

Under the Alcoholic Beverage Code, courts may require minors convicted of first or subsequent offenses for the purchase, possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages to attend alcohol awareness courses approved by TCADA. The Code of Criminal Procedure authorizes TCADA to charge non-refundable application and renewal fees to those being certified to teach the six-hour alcohol awareness course.

TCADA administers these programs through administrative rules. The agency does not have explicit statutory authority to administer them under TCADA's enabling statute in the Health and Safety Code.

DIGEST: SB 197 would amend the Health and Safety Code to authorize TCADA to regulate, coordinate and provide training for alcohol awareness courses for minors convicted of first or subsequent offenses for the purchase, possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages. TCADA would also be authorized to charge fees for alcohol awareness courses.

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House Research Organization
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The bill would take effect September 1, 1997.