

SUBJECT: Licensing pharmacists and pharmacies

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Gray, Capelo, Delisi, Glaze, Hilderbran, Maxey, McClendon,
Uresti

0 nays

1 absent — Coleman

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, March 25 — 31-0

WITNESSES: None

DIGEST: SB 730 would authorize the Board of Pharmacy to renew pharmacy licenses annually or biennially and would make conforming changes to provisions relating to continuing education requirements and fees.

SB 730 also would:

- ! specify that pharmacies operating in ambulatory surgical centers are to be licensed under a Class C or “institutional” license and authorize the board to issue a license to a pharmacy within an institutional facility that has substantially completed the requirements for licensing;
- ! authorize the board to determine and issue standards for approval of pharmacist certification programs; and
- ! specify that a person wanting to reinstate a revoked or restricted license would have the burden of proof to demonstrate that reinstatement was appropriate.

This bill would take effect September 1, 1999.

SUPPORTERS SAY: SB 730 would make cleanup and other administrative amendments to the Texas Pharmacy Act. Authorizing the board to renew pharmacy licenses biennially would help the board stagger licensing renewals to maximize the effectiveness of licensing personnel. The board already has the authority to issue licenses biennially for pharmacists.

Authorizing the board to approve pharmacist certification programs would establish needed oversight of the variety of programs being conducted to instruct pharmacists in special areas. These programs vary in hours of education required and depth of information conveyed. Board approval would weed out programs that do not offer enough training or instruction to pharmacists to warrant specially recognized certification in an area.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.