

SUBJECT: Transferring regulation of riding stables

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Livestock — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Swinford, McReynolds, Christian, Green, Hupp, Kolkhorst
0 nays
3 absent — Hardcastle, Miller, Brown

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, March 22 — 30-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — None
On — Bill Powers, Texas Animal Health Commission

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code, chapter 2053 governs the regulation of riding stables by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) and the Board of Health. A riding stable is an establishment open to the public that maintains one or more equine animals available for hire for recreational riding or driving. TDH and the health board are responsible for establishing standards for operation and registration of riding stables, adopting necessary rules, entering into contracts or agreements, using fees collected for administration and enforcement, inspecting riding stables, and setting standards for care and control of equine animals, disease control, housing, and sanitation.

DIGEST: SB 685 would transfer the regulation of riding stables from TDH and the Board of Health to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). All related powers, appropriations, and items would be transferred to TAHC not later than January 1, 2002. TDH and the Board of Health would have to decide whether to transfer to TAHC personnel and assets used both for the regulation of riding stables and for other purposes.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2001.

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House Research Organization
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