

SUBJECT: Sharing information with correctional office for impaired offenders

COMMITTEE: Corrections — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Madden, D. Jones, Haggerty, R. Allen, Hochberg, Noriega

0 nays

1 absent — McReynolds

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 14 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code, ch. 614, establishes the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI). This office coordinates the activities of organizations that deal with policy, legislative, and programmatic issues affecting offenders with special needs, including offenders with serious mental illnesses, mental retardation, terminal or serious medical conditions, physical disabilities, and the elderly.

The 78th Legislature in 2003 enacted HB 2292 by Wohlgemuth, which reorganized and revised state health and human services agencies.

DIGEST: CSSB 396 would amend the list of agencies that share information with TCOOMMI, adding the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee. It also would change the names of health and human services agencies to conform with last session's reorganization.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2005.

SUPPORTERS CSSB 396 would help assure that offenders with special needs receive

SAY: continuity of care and the comprehensive approach to treatment necessary to produce the best outcomes. TCOOMMI ensures that agencies work together to create an integrated system.

The Correctional Managed Health Care Committee should be included in list of agencies that share information because it oversees the direct provision of medical care to offenders and is closely involved in correctional health care policy.

OPPONENTS
SAY: No apparent opposition.

NOTES: The committee substitute added the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee to the list of agencies that share information with TCOOMMI.

The companion bill, HB 1918 by R. Allen, passed on the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar on May 9 and has been referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.