

- SUBJECT:** Promoting and regulating use of electronic signatures in HHS programs
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Rose, S. King, Herrero, Hughes, Naishtat, Parker
0 nays
3 absent — J. Davis, Eissler, Pierson
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Cindy Gunn, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System; Mazie M. Jamison, Children’s Medical Center Dallas; Patricia Kolodzey, Texas Hospital Association; Gabriela Moreno, CHRISTUS Health; Vicki Perkins, CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children’s Hospital; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Chris Traylor, HHSC)
- BACKGROUND:** The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act — Business and Commerce Code, ch. 43 — authorizes state agencies to employ e-signatures and regulates use of electronic records. Under the act, “electronic signature” means an electronic sound, symbol, or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record. Sec. 43.007 states that if a law requires a signature, an electronic signature satisfies the law.
- DIGEST:** HB 3261 would state the intent of the Legislature that the HHSC use digital or electronic technology, to the greatest extent feasible, to reduce paper transactions, streamline processes, and promote provider participation and client access to services, including the submission of applications, the determination of eligibility, and requests for recertification, redetermination, and appeals.

The bill would amend Government Code, sec. 531.0055 to require the executive commissioner of HHSC to establish standards for the use of electronic signatures in accordance with the Uniform Electronic

Transactions Act, with respect to any transaction, in connection with the administration of health and human services programs.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2007.