

- SUBJECT:** Creating a diabetes demonstration pilot program
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Delisi, Laubenberg, Jackson, Cohen, Coleman, Gonzales, S. King, Olivo
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Truitt
- WITNESSES:** For — Craig Walker, Memorial Health System of East Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Veronica De La Garza, American Diabetes Association; Jill Johnson, Texans Care for Children; James Willmann, Texas Nurses Association; Anna Sturgeon)
- Against — None
- On — Richard Kropp, Department of State Health Services
- BACKGROUND:** Nearly 21 million people in the United States have diabetes. While an estimated 14.6 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, some 6.2 million people are unaware that they have the disease.
- Texas has taken steps to combat the disease through public education. In 1983, the Legislature established the Texas Diabetes Council, which works to educate Texans about diabetes and address the issues surrounding it. In addition, the University of Texas-Pan American operates a screening program for certain school districts to ensure that children are screened for acanthosis nigricans, a disorder characterized by abnormal skin growth and associated with obesity and insensitivity to insulin. The screening data is reported to the University of Texas-Pan American, and the program refers students who have incidences of acanthosis nigricans to local clinicians. However, there is no clinical follow-up to this referral.
- DIGEST:** HB 3735 would authorize the Department of State Health Services and the Texas Diabetes Council to create a diabetes pilot program at Memorial Health System of East Texas that would provide a comprehensive

approach to promoting the prevention and treatment of diabetes and acanthosis nigricans. The pilot program would:

- focus on an epidemiological approach to disease surveillance;
- identify the prevalence of acanthosis nigricans and diabetes in Memorial Health System's service area;
- provide health and wellness information to people positively screened for diabetes and acanthosis nigricans ;
- improve access to care for people diagnosed with diabetes and acanthosis nigricans ; and
- study the cost savings of early detection and treatment of diabetes and acanthosis nigricans.

The Memorial Health System could solicit, accept, and administer gifts and grants for the purpose of the pilot. The bill specifically would prevent funding the pilot project with state funds .

Memorial Health System would be required to submit a report describing the effectiveness of the pilot program and recommendations for continuation of the program to the Texas Diabetes Council by October 1, 2008. This pilot program would expire September 1, 2009.

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, 2007.