

SUBJECT: Establishing a plan for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* prevention

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Kolkhorst, Naishtat, Collier, Cortez, S. Davis, S. King, J.D. Sheffield, Zedler

0 nays

3 absent — Coleman, Guerra, Laubenberg

WITNESSES: For — Carlos Higgins, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Troy Alexander, Texas Medical Association; Chris Kyker, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; Linnea Nasman, The Immunization Partnership)

Against — None

On — Welsey Hodgson and Shelley Lucas, DSHS

BACKGROUND: *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is a common cause of bacterial pneumonia.

DIGEST: CSHB 2709 would establish a statewide plan for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* prevention and education.

State plan. The Department of State Health Services would be required to develop a state plan for the prevention and treatment of diseases caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The plan would include strategies for prevention and treatment in specific demographics that are often affected by these diseases, including the elderly and children less than 2 years of age, and others.

When developing the plan, the department would consult with members of the public, state agencies that provide services to affected individuals, and public advocates, among others. The department would have to update the plan at least once every five years, and could update it biennially.

Education program. The department would develop a program to increase awareness and understanding of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

Under the program, the department would conduct health education activities about risk factors, early detection, screening services, and treatment for the diseases caused by the bacteria. This information would also be posted on the department's website. The department could use existing resources to develop a study to determine the current and future impact of the bacteria.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2013.