

**SUBJECT:** Requiring reports of patient deaths from surgical site infections

**COMMITTEE:** Public Health — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Kolkhorst, Naishtat, Collier, Cortez, S. Davis, Guerra, S. King, Laubenberg, J.D. Sheffield

0 nays

2 absent — Coleman, Zedler

**WITNESSES:** For — Elizabeth Sjoberg, Texas Hospital Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Carlos Higgins, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature)

Against — None

On — Ron Gernsbacher, Department of State Health Services

**BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code, sec. 98.103 requires a health-care facility to report to the Department of State Health Services (department) surgical-site infections following certain medical procedures.

**DIGEST:** HB 3285 would require a health-care facility to report whether the surgical-site infection resulted in the death of the patient. The department would need to summarize this information and make it publicly available.

As soon as practicable after the effective date, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission would need to adopt rules to implement these changes. The bill would apply to reports and departmental summaries made on or after March 1, 2014.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 3285 would enhance transparency by requiring health care facilities to report patient deaths following surgical site infections. This would make the department's data collection more complete and help the public make more informed health-care decisions.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

HB 3285 should specify that health-care facilities only would be required to report infection-related deaths that occurred while the patient was still in the hospital. As written, the bill could significantly burden health-care facilities by requiring them to track a patient long after the patient had been discharged.

NOTES:

The bill's author intends to offer a floor amendment that would specifically address the opponent's concerns.