

SUBJECT: Releasing a recording of an informal settlement proceeding to a physician

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

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

0 nays

2 absent — Coleman, Laubenberg

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, March 26 — 31-0

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association; Marisa Finley, Scott and White Healthcare)

Against — None

On — Mari Robinson, Texas Medical Board

BACKGROUND: In 2011, the 82nd Legislature enacted HB 680 by Schwertner, which altered the complaints process of the Texas Medical Board under Occupations Code, sec. 164.003. HB 680 required the Texas Medical Board to make a recording of the informal settlement conference proceeding of a physician under review for a complaint. The bill allowed the board to charge the physician a fee to cover the cost of recording the proceeding. The Texas Medical Board currently contracts with a company to record and transcribe the proceeding.

DIGEST: SB 380 would allow the Texas Medical Board to release the recording of an informal settlement conference proceeding to the physician under review if the physician requested it.

This 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, 2013.