

SUBJECT: School employee mental health training; authorities of local government

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Coleman, Farias, Burrows, Romero, Schubert, Spitzer, Stickland, Tinderholt, Wu

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Gyl Switzer, Mental Health America of Texas; Donald Lee, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Seth Mitchell, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Katharine Ligon, Center for Public Policy Priorities; June Deadrick, CenterPoint Energy; Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Craig Pardue, Dallas County; Patti Jones, Lubbock County; Will Jones, McLennan County; Greg Hansch, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Mark Mendez, Tarrant County Commissioners Court; Rick Thompson, Texas Association of Counties; John Brieden, Washington County)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Lisa Kirsch, Health and Human Services Commission; Connie Berry, Department of State Health Services)

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code, sec. 1001.203 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to make grants to local mental health authorities to provide an approved mental health first aid training program, administered by mental health first aid trainers, at no cost to educators. The department is required to grant \$100 to a local mental health authority for each educator that successfully completes training.

Health and Safety Code, sec. 1001.205 requires a local mental health authority to provide to DSHS certain mental health training reports no later than July 1 of each year. The information provided must include the

number of mental health authority employees and contractors who were trained as mental health first aid trainers and the number of educators and individuals who are not educators who completed the mental health first aid training program. DSHS is required to compile the information provided by a local mental health authority and submit a report of the information to the Legislature no later than August 1 of each year.

Local Government Code, sec. 263.152 permits the commissioners court of a county to periodically sell the county's surplus or salvage property by bid or auction. This section permits the commissioners court of a county to order any of the surplus or salvage property to be destroyed or disposed of as worthless if the commissioners court cannot sell the property.

Local Government Code, sec. 271.9051 grants certain municipalities the authority to enter into contracts with bidders for certain services and take into account the bidder's location prior to accepting a bid. If the lowest bid for certain services is from a business outside of the municipality, the municipality may choose a bid that is within five percent of the lowest bid if the bidder's principal place of business was within the municipality.

DIGEST:

CSHB 2977 would amend Health and Safety Code, sec. 1001.203 by expanding the types of employees eligible to receive mental health first aid training and related grants to include school district employees and school resource officers, rather than just educators.

The bill would amend Health and Safety Code, sec. 1001.205 by making certain changes to the training reporting requirements for local mental health authorities, including changing the dates the reports should be provided to the Department of State Health Services.

The bill would amend Local Government Code sec. 263.152 by allowing a county to dispose of surplus or salvage property to a recycling program if the property could not be sold.

The bill would amend Local Government Code, sec. 271.9051 by giving counties the authority to consider the location of a bidder when

contracting for services.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2015.