

SUBJECT: Providing for continuity of prescription medication for county jail inmates

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Coleman, Biedermann, Neave, Roberts, Stickland, Uresti

0 nays

3 absent — Springer, Hunter, Thierry

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — Brandon Wood, Texas Commission on Jail Standards

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised about the potential effects of inmates losing access to legally prescribed medications while in county jails and the need for clear guidance to local officials.

DIGEST: CSHB 3428 would require the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to adopt reasonable rules and procedures establishing minimum standards on the continuity of prescription medications for the care and treatment of prisoners.

The rules and procedures would require that upon determining that a prisoner was lawfully taking a prescription medication when he or she entered the county jail, the prisoner would be maintained on that same drug or a generic equivalent until a qualified health care professional directed otherwise after an individualized consideration.

The commission would adopt the rules and procedures no later than January 1, 2018.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES: A companion bill, SB 2237 by Menéndez, was referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee on March 29.