

SUBJECT: Changing requirements for veterinarians prescribing controlled substances

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Livestock — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Springer, Anderson, Beckley, Buckley, Burns, Fierro, Meza, Raymond

0 nays

1 absent — Zwiener

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 11 — 31-0

WITNESSES: No public hearing

BACKGROUND: Health and Safety Code sec. 481.0766(a) requires a wholesale distributor of controlled substances to report certain information regarding the distribution of controlled substances to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System and to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

Occupations Code sec. 801.307 establishes the continuing education requirements for veterinarians.

DIGEST: SB 1947 would require the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to make available information it received from a wholesale distributor on the distribution of controlled substances to the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners for the purpose of routine inspections and investigations.

The bill also would require the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to require veterinarians to, every two years, complete two hours of continuing education related to opioid abuse and controlled substances diversion, inventory, and security. These requirements would apply only to the renewal of a license to practice veterinary medicine on or after September 1, 2020.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019