

SUBJECT: Revising application provisions for court-ordered mental health services

COMMITTEE: Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Leach, Julie Johnson, Davis, Flores, Moody, Murr, Schofield, Slawson, Vasut
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Katherine Yoder, Parkland Health; Catherine Dunham, Texas Health Resources (*Registered, but did not testify*: M Paige Williams, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot; Aaryce Hayes, Disability Rights Texas; Eric Woomer, Federation of Texas Psychiatry; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Greg Hansch, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Guy Herman, Presiding Statutory Probate Judge of Texas; Jessica Schleifer, Teaching Hospitals of Texas; Joel Ballew, Texas Health Resources; Idona Griffith; Chris Masey)
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that clarity is needed regarding which county an application for court-ordered mental health services may be filed in by a county hospital.

DIGEST: CSHB 186 would expand the locations in which an application for court-ordered mental health services was required to be filed. Such an application could be filed in the county in which the proposed patient was located at the time of the filing rather than the county in which the proposed patient was found. The bill also would allow such an application to be filed in the county where the proposed patient was apprehended for emergency detention.
The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.