

SUBJECT: Creating a data sharing network related to homelessness

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Lozano, Bernal, Cortez, Cunningham, J. González, Hayes
0 nays
3 absent — Gates, Romero, Tepper

WITNESSES: For — Eric Samuels, Texas Homeless Network (*Registered, but did not testify*; TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Leslie Bourne, Covenant House Texas; Tanya Lavelle, Disability Rights Tx; Bill Kelly, Mayor’s Office, City of Houston; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Lyssette Galvan, NAMI Texas; Isabel Casas, Texas Council of Community Centers; Anja Taylor, Texas Homeless Network; Erin Hahn, Texas Housers; Lauren Rose, Texas Network of Youth Services; Myra Syed, Mark Smith, The Coalition for the Homeless (Houston/Harris County); Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Kenneth Flippin, US Green Building Council Texas Chapter; and nine individuals)

Against — None

On — Zenobia Joseph (*Registered, but did not testify*; Whitney Parra, TAAHP)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that government agencies and non-governmental organizations are unable to track and record data related to people experiencing homelessness.

DIGEST: HB 2533 would require the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to use available resources and collaborate with the Texas Homeless Network to implement a homeless data sharing network through which homeless response systems and data warehouse vendors are able to share and assess real-time data on homelessness

throughout the state.

In implementing the network, TDHCA would collaborate with health benefit plan issuers and managed care organizations to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and connect and refer those individuals to available resources for the purpose of improving health outcomes. TDHCA would be required to ensure that confidential information shared through the network was not disclosed.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.