

**SUBJECT:** Requiring notice of medical waste permit application filing

**COMMITTEE:** Environmental Regulation — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Landgraf, Guerra, K. Bell, Dean, Kuempel, J. Lopez, Meza, Morales Shaw, Reynolds

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso; Alexa Aragonz, City of Houston, Mayor's Office; Jason Sabo, Environment Texas; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Adrian Shelley, Public Citizen; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court)

Against — None

On — Brenda Haney, Texas Lone Star Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (*Registered, but did not testify*: Charly Fritz, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ))

**DIGEST:** HB 26 would require an applicant for a permit to construct, operate, or maintain a medical waste facility to provide notice of the application or notice of intent to file an application to certain elected officials within 30 days of filing. Notice would be provided to:

- the state senator and representative for the area proposed as the facility location;
- the commissioners court of the applicable county;
- the governing body of the applicable municipality;
- the governing body of any applicable school district; and
- the tribal council of any applicable Indian tribe on whose tribal lands the facility may be located.

The applicant would be required to submit to the Texas Commission on

Environmental Quality (TCEQ) proof that notice was provided.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023. The bill would apply only to applications for medical waste facility permits submitted to TCEQ on or after the effective date of the bill.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

HB 26 would promote transparency by giving community leaders the chance to participate in the medical waste permitting process. The bill would provide more awareness to communities of the location in which a facility planned to operate so that they could review, comment, and provide input.

**CRITICS  
SAY:**

No concerns identified.