

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.C.R. 44  
By: Delisi (Moncrief)  
Health & Human Services  
5-15-97  
Committee Report (Amended)

### **DIGEST**

Since 1987, five local health departments have discontinued services in Upsher, Del Rio, Valverde, Eagle Pass and Wilson counties. When a county or city discontinues local funding of public health services, the state must fill in the gaps in regard to such health services. There is no law establishing the responsibility of a local government to provide health services. The state does not have adequate resources to perform these additional health care functions.

This resolution would direct the Department of Health, the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center School of Public Health, and the Blackland Research Center and the School of Rural Public Health at Texas A&M University to study the role of local governments in providing health services and to report their findings from the study to the legislature by the beginning of the 76th Legislative Session.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.C.R. 44 submits the following resolutions:

To direct the Texas Department of Health, the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs of the University of Texas, The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center School of Public Health, and the Blackland Research Center and the School of Rural Public Health of the Texas A&M University System, within their existing resources and in conjunction with city and county governments, to study the current role of local governments in providing health services.

Provides that the agencies submit a full report of their findings and recommendations to the 76th Legislature when it convenes in January 1999.

Provides that the secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the commissioner of health, the dean of the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs, the dean of The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center School of Public Health, the directors of the Blackland Research Center and the School of Rural Public Health, the chancellor of the Texas A&M University System and the chancellor of the University of Texas System.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Amendment 1.

Page 1, line 19, between "Texas" and "and", insert "The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center School of Public Health,".

Page 2, line 6, between "Affairs" and "the", insert "the dean of The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center School of Public Health,".