

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R11106 JRD-D

H.B. 747  
By: Gallego (Shapleigh)  
Health Services  
5/13/1999  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Medical peer review committees may evaluate the competence of a physician or the quality of medical and health care services afforded to patients. Current law protects the minutes and journals of medical peer review committee hearings. However, in cases where the governing body of a public hospital, hospital district, or hospital authority conducts a meeting to evaluate the competence of a physician or the quality of medical and care services afforded to patients, the law may not clearly protect the minutes and journals of the meeting. H.B. 747 provides that the term "medical peer review committee" or "professional review body" includes the governing body of a public hospital, hospital authority, or hospital district, in relation to the body's evaluation of the competence of a physician or the quality of medical or health care services.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 747 relates to certain evaluations made by the governing body of a hospital district, hospital authority, or public hospital.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 1.03(a)(6), Medical Practice Act, Article 4495b, V.T.C.S., to provide that the term "medical peer review committee" or "professional review body" includes the governing body of a public hospital owned or operated by a governmental entity, the governing body of a hospital authority created under Chapter 262 or 264, Health and Safety Code, and the governing body of a hospital district created under Article IX, Texas Constitution, but only in relation to the governing body's evaluation of the competence of a physician or the quality of medical and health care services provided by the public hospital, hospital authority, or hospital district, to the extent that the evaluation involves discussions or records that could identify an individual patient or physician.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.