

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R5903 GJH-D

S.B. 595
By: Harris
Health & Human Services
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Current law requires the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners to provide physician complaint information to a health care entity. Eighty percent of these complaints are without merit and negatively impacts the reputation of physicians and requires physicians to justify their actions in all future dealings with hospitals, insurance companies and other providers. S.B. 595 limits the release of these reports only to instances when there is a negative finding.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 154B, Occupations Code, by adding Section 154.0525, as follows:

Sec. 154.0525. COMPLAINT CONFIDENTIALITY. Provides that the basis of and current status of any complaint under active investigation is confidential, except as otherwise provided by this chapter.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 154.054, Occupations Code, to delete language regarding the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners providing information to a health care entity regarding the basis of and current status of any complaint under active investigation.

SECTION 3. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.