

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R8686 SMJ-D

C.S.S.B. 684  
By: Madla  
Health & Human Services  
3/16/2001  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation contracts with providers through local mental health authorities to provide mental health services, and providers are divided into categories of physician and non-physician. The current definition of “non-physician” does not include licensed professional counselors or licensed family and marriage therapists, but C.S.S.B. 684 adds such counselors and therapists to the definition to allow them to conduct an independent psychiatric, psychological, or medical examination by non-physicians as provided by Section 576.026 of the Health and Safety Code.

### **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 Section 571.003(15), Health and Safety Code, to redefine “non-physician mental health professional.”

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Differs from original by adding a licensed professional counselor licensed to practice in this state to the definition of a “non-physician mental health professional.”