

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 1506
By: Schwertner
Business & Commerce
5/7/2013
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

In 2009, legislation was passed to prohibit anyone except fire inspectors certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection from conducting fire safety inspections at home health care and day care facilities. This requirement is having the unintended consequence of leaving these facilities without inspections because there are not enough commission-certified inspectors.

Additionally, this certification requires a 152-hour training course that costs \$1,000, a testing fee of \$85, and a certification fee of \$85. This is especially burdensome on volunteer firefighters in rural areas who were allowed to conduct these inspections prior to 2009.

C.S.S.B. 1506 will help ensure that home health care and day care facilities are inspected and inspected properly by expanding the list of certifying entities from which an individual may obtain certification.

C.S.S.B. 1506 amends current law relating to training regarding fire safety inspections required by law.

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 419.909(a), Government Code, as follows:

(a) Provides that only an individual certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) as a fire inspector is authorized to conduct a fire safety inspection required by a state or local law, rule, regulation, or ordinance. Authorizes the following entities to provide training related to fire safety inspections:

- (1) TCFP;
- (2) the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas;
- (3) the National Fire Protection Association;
- (4) a public junior college;
- (5) a regional fire academy; or
- (6) any state agency with authority over fire safety inspections.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2013.