

APIC-DFW – February 2003

Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Update – 78th Texas Legislative Session *

- New Texas House/Senate convened on 01/14/03
- Status of bills with infection control content listed under “Last Activity”
- Committees most likely to have infection control content:
 - House: Public Health (PH) or Oversight S/C of Public Health (S/C PH)
 - House: Public Safety (PS) or Oversight S/C of Public Safety (S/C PS)
 - Senate: Health and Human Services (HHS)

Texas Bills Filed with Infection Control Content

Bill Name	Last Activity	Summary of Content
HB 49 (Turner)	Referred PH 01/30/03	Relating to the authority of the TDH regarding sanitation and privacy in public school restrooms
HCR 11 (Corte)	Filed 11/12/02 Corte	Memorializing the congress to pursue research to quantify health risks and develop uniform exposure guidelines applicable to molds and mold aggregations that contribute to “sick buildings”
SB 28 (Zaffirini)	Referred to S/C of Education 01/27/03	Relating to the collection and maintenance of bacterial meningitis immunization records by public institutions of higher education
SB 38 (Zaffirini)	Referred to HHS 01/27/03	Relating to certain immunization programs
SB 39 (Zaffirini)	Referred to HHS 01/27/03	Relating to the immunization registry
SB 40 (Zaffirini)	Referred to HHS 01/27/03	Relating to an immunization education program established by the Texas Dept of Health
SB 185 (Janek) HB 446 (Smith)	Referred to HHS 01/30/03 Filed 01/17/03 Smith	Relating to standing water as a nuisance
HB 627	Filed 01/30/03 Reyna	Relating to an area quarantine in response to a bioterrorist attack; imposing a criminal penalty

* Current as of 01/31/03; Go to www.capitol.state.tx.us/ to view content of bills filed

TEXAS REGISTER: <http://lamb.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.html>

- To view content of *PROPOSED* or *ADOPTED* rules, access the Texas Register at <http://lamb.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.html>
- 01/31/03 **ADOPTED** for Chapter 2: Emergency Preparedness [25 TAC § 2.1 (pages 952-054)]

This rule was published, as proposed, for public comment on 11/01/02, and was adopted with minimal changes on 01/31/03. This TDH rule allows the board to establish advisory committees to provide the department with advice on public health preparedness on “bioterrorism attacks, other infectious disease outbreaks, and additional public health threats and emergencies”. NOTE: Infection Control was *not* made a permanent member of the council; however, in response to this suggestion it states, “The department will consider this request when appointing council members. No changes were made to the rule as a result of this comment”.

- 01/31/03 **PROPOSED** for Chapter 97: Communicable Diseases [25 TAC § 97.3 and 97.178 (pages 821 to 823)]
- 01/31/03 **PROPOSED** for Chapter 99: Occupational Diseases [25 TAC § 99.1 and 97.178 (pages 823 to 824)]

Concerns reporting requirements for communicable diseases to the TDH, to clarify what was reportable and how it applies to the Federal HIPAA regulations (45 CFR, parts 160 & 164), privacy standards, effective 04/14/03. The proposed amended sections reflect changes to the rule that were required to ensure there will be no change in the information reported under these sections, and to further ensure that HIPAA covered reporting entities will comply with the letter and the spirit of the HIPAA privacy standards.

The proposed rules correct any discrepancies between the rules and the information the TDH currently receives, and makes no changes in the information a person is currently required to report to TDH.

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2003 APIC-DFW GAC Chair