

CHAPTER 788

H.B. No. 876

AN ACT

relating to a reduction in the amount of paperwork a nursing home or similar institution is required to complete and retain.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 413, Acts of the 53rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1953 (Article 4442c, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 7D to read as follows:

*Sec. 7D. PAPERWORK REDUCTION RULES. (a) The Licensing Agency and the Texas Department of Human Services shall adopt rules to reduce the amount of paperwork an institution must complete and retain.*

*(b) Unless the reduction would jeopardize patient safety, the Licensing Agency and the Texas Department of Human Services shall attempt to reduce the amount of paperwork to the minimum amount required by state statutes and federal law.*

*(c) The Licensing Agency, contracting agency, and providers shall work jointly to review regulations and propose changes in paperwork requirements that will translate into additional time for direct patient care.*

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 30, 1987, by a non-record vote. Passed by the Senate on May 26, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 1987.

Effective Aug. 31, 1987, 90 days after date of adjournment.