



Texas hospitals support **House Bill 49** by Rep. Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth).

HB 49 increases transparency by making final hospital investigation reports, outcomes and the number of times a hospital has been investigated by the state open to the public.



HB 49 would prompt disclosure of investigative materials to the public, improve transparency and helps ensure patients have access to critical information to inform care and decision making.

HB 49 prioritizes hospital transparency and achieves the following while ensuring privacy by requiring personally identifiable information to be omitted:

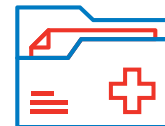


- Makes public the number of investigations the Texas Health and Human Services Commission has conducted of the hospital.
- Makes public the outcome of each investigation conducted by HHSC.
- Makes public the final investigation report issued by HHSC.
- Requires HHSC to publicly post on its website hospital names, Notices of Violations, investigation outcomes and other details deemed open to the public by HB 49.



Health Records

Additionally, HB 49 strengthens a hospital's ability to release health records to a patient, parent, guardian or personal representative (if the patient is deceased).



Enforcement Actions

Currently, HHSC posts one year of enforcement actions on its website at hhs.texas.gov for general and special hospitals. The publicly available listing includes hospital name, city, license number, violations by Texas Administrative Code numbers, penalty amounts and dates. The listing does not include narrative or details about the investigation.



HB 49 helps hold hospitals and the state accountable and improves patient access to investigation information. This ultimately helps people make informed decisions about their medical care.