

Medical Ethics Committee Reporting

**As Required by
Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter
166, Subchapter B, Section 166.054
House Bill 3162, 88th Legislature,
Regular Session, 2023
(Article II, HHSC, Rider 87)**

**Texas Health and Human Services
April 2025**



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Introduction

[Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 166, Subchapter B, Section 166.054, as amended by House Bill \(H.B.\) 3162, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023](#), requires health care facilities to report information regarding ethics or medical committee processes when an attending physician refuses to honor an advance directive or health care decision made by or on behalf of a patient who is determined to be incompetent or is otherwise mentally or physically incapable of communication. Facilities must submit a report no later than the 180th day after the facility notifies the person responsible for the patient's health care decision in writing regarding the review process.

H.B. 3162 also requires the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to produce and publish on the agency's website an annual report containing certain aggregate information collected from these reports. This report is due by April 1 each year and is required to report information collected during the prior calendar year. The information required to be reported differs depending upon the number of reports received during the year. The reported information must not identify any individual, entity, or facility.

Summary of implementation activities

In compliance with reporting requirements of H.B. 3162, HHSC's Office of Data, Analytics, and Performance, Regulatory Services Division, and Legal Services Division collaborated to develop a reporting form to collect the information required by the bill.

On September 1, 2023, HHSC published information regarding H.B. 3162 and the reporting instructions on the agency website. Health care facilities were also notified of the reporting requirements via GovDelivery. In addition, HHSC established an email mailbox for questions regarding the reporting form.

On December 1, 2023, HHSC published [guidance letter \(GL\) 23-2003, Advance Directives, Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders, and Health Care Treatment Decisions \(H.B. 3162-88R\)](#) and notified health care facilities of the GL posting via GovDelivery. GL 23-2003 provides instruction to general and special hospitals and special care facilities regarding H.B. 3162 and the new required processes when a physician refuses to honor certain patients' advance directives or health care decisions.

On December 13, 2023, HHSC posted the draft advance directives rules for informal comment for three weeks and notified health care facilities of the informal comment posting via GovDelivery. HHSC anticipates posting the draft rules for formal comment in the Texas Register in the coming months and adopting the proposed rules by the end of 2024.

MECR Annual Report

This report is produced in compliance with [Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 166, Subchapter B, Section 166.054 as amended by H.B 3162, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023](#). HHSC did not receive any reports required by the bill between September 1, 2023 (the date the bill was effective) and the end of the calendar year.

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
HHSC	Health and Human Services Commission
GL	Guidance Letter
MECR	Medical Ethics Committee Reporting