

## Texas Moves Forward On Drug Testing Bills

Texas has recently introduced two new bills into their state legislature relating to drug testing of professional education employees [81\(R\)HB 975](#) and recipients of financial assistance [81\(R\) HB 830](#). The first bill, [HB 975](#), would mandate random drug and alcohol testing of "professional employees of public school districts" including but not limited to: teachers, principals, superintendents, substitute teachers, counselors and social workers. If passed, this bill would mandate testing for "excessive use of alcoholic beverages, marijuana and other controlled substances." Pre-employment testing, random testing and post-accident testing would also be required by Texas school districts.

The second drug testing bill introduced into Texas legislature, [HB 830](#), would make drug testing of applicants for financial assistance benefits mandatory. Each adult applicant (including those applying on behalf of a child) and each adult nonrecipient parent would need to be tested to establish eligibility to receive the aforementioned benefits. It will also be required for recipients of financial assistance to submit to monthly drug tests. If, after a drug test, controlled substances (not legally prescribed by a professional healthcare practitioner) are found present the applicant/applicant's family will be ineligible to receive financial assistance for six months. After the six month ineligibility period the applicant can reapply and must again submit to a drug test.