



**DALLAS COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Passage of Texas Senate Bill 186 Adds Another Mosquito Abatement Tool for Cities**

**Dallas, Texas, May 16, 2013** – Governor Rick Perry has signed SB 186, which allows immediate treatment of abandoned properties and pools to reduce mosquito breeding sites in Texas cities. The passing of SB 186 assists cities' mosquito control division throughout Texas with abatement of mosquito breeding sites to reduce the number of West Nile virus infected adult mosquitoes.

"There were numerous complaints from Dallas County residents about abandoned properties, some with swimming pools, which posed potential breeding sites for mosquitoes," said Dr. Christopher Perkins, DCHHS medical director and health authority. "This bill allows local governments in Texas to proactively reduce the impact of the West Nile virus infected mosquitoes to keep our residents safer."

Research has shown that one of the most effective treatments to eradicate mosquitoes carrying the disease is to treat stagnant water with larvicide. In order to prevent the spread of this disease, counties and municipalities needed authority to treat properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed.

SB 186 amends the Health and Safety Code giving authority to municipalities, counties and other local health authorities to treat stagnant water in which mosquitoes are breeding with a mosquito larvicide if:

- The property is residential and reasonably presumed to be abandoned or uninhabited due to foreclosure; and
- The property must pose an immediate danger to the health, life or safety of people.

SB 186 is a great bill for assisting Dallas County municipalities and municipalities throughout State of Texas in the prevention of West Nile virus.

"Dallas County Health and Human Services would like to thank Senator John Carona and State Representative Helen Giddings for sponsoring SB 186 and HB 832," said Zachary Thompson, DCHHS director. "The cities within Dallas County have been provided yet another tool to fight West Nile virus."

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