

By: Powell

S.B. No. 1858

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and pilot program to evaluate the provision of prenatal and well child care in a group clinical setting and authority to take related action.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.02493 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.02493. CURRICULUM-BASED GROUP WELL CHILD CARE PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall develop and, not later than March 1, 2022, implement a pilot program to increase the rate at which recipients attend well child health care visits, developmental screenings, and immunizations by providing those services through a curriculum-based group well child care model in a clinical setting.

(b) The commission shall operate the pilot program in one or more geographic areas of this state.

(c) In implementing the pilot program, the commission shall:

(1) require a Medicaid managed care organization to provide enhanced reimbursement in an amount determined by the commission to a health care provider for providing curriculum-based group well child care to recipients; and

(2) evaluate whether the enhanced reimbursement increases the rate of children receiving well child visits,

1 developmental screenings, and immunizations.

2 (d) The commission shall operate the pilot program for two  
3 years.

4 (e) Not later than September 1, 2024, the commission shall  
5 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the  
6 house of representatives, and each standing committee of the  
7 legislature having primary jurisdiction over health and human  
8 services a written report that:

9 (1) summarizes the results of the pilot program; and

10 (2) recommends whether the pilot program should  
11 continue, be expanded, or terminate or if the commission should  
12 permanently implement enhanced reimbursement to health care  
13 providers for providing curriculum-based group well child care in a  
14 clinical setting.

15 (f) The executive commissioner may adopt rules as necessary  
16 to implement this section.

17 (g) This section expires September 1, 2025.

18 SECTION 2. (a) In this section:

19 (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services  
20 Commission.

21 (2) "Medicaid" means the medical assistance program  
22 established under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code.

23 (3) "Medicaid managed care organization" means a  
24 managed care organization as defined by Section 533.001, Government  
25 Code, that contracts with the commission under Chapter 533,  
26 Government Code, to provide health care services to Medicaid  
27 recipients.

1 (b) The commission shall conduct a study regarding the  
2 provision of curriculum-based prenatal care and curriculum-based  
3 well child care offered in a group clinical setting. The study  
4 must:

5 (1) evaluate the health benefits and potential cost  
6 savings to Medicaid that would result from implementing  
7 curriculum-based group prenatal care models, including  
8 implementation of those models using virtual modalities similar to  
9 those used during the COVID-19 pandemic;

10 (2) evaluate the use of procedure codes under Medicaid  
11 for curriculum-based group prenatal care in a clinical setting;

12 (3) reassess the provider types authorized to provide  
13 prenatal benefits in a group clinical setting under Medicaid by  
14 identifying provider types that deliver curriculum-based group  
15 prenatal care, including federally qualified health centers,  
16 hospitals, rural health clinics, and individual health care  
17 providers; and

18 (4) explore options for promoting curriculum-based  
19 group well child care models under Medicaid, including by:

20 (A) assessing the need for establishing a  
21 procedure code under Medicaid for the provision of curriculum-based  
22 group well child care in a clinical setting; and

23 (B) promoting value-based payment arrangements  
24 between providers and Medicaid managed care organizations.

25 (c) Not later than September 1, 2022, the commission shall:

26 (1) prepare and submit a report on the findings of the  
27 study conducted under Subsection (b) of this section to the

1 standing committees of the senate and house of representatives  
2 having jurisdiction over Medicaid; and

3           (2) based on the assessment under Subsection (b)(3) of  
4 this section, update the health care provider types that may  
5 provide prenatal benefits in a group clinical setting under  
6 Medicaid.

7           (d) This section expires September 1, 2023.

8           SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
9 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
10 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
11 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
12 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
13 waiver or authorization is granted.

14           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.