

By: Talarico

H.B. No. 89

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to county and municipal authority regarding certain medical and health care billing by ambulance service providers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 113.902(a), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 140.013, the ~~The~~ county treasurer shall direct prosecution for the recovery of any debt owed to the county, as provided by law, and shall supervise the collection of the debt.

SECTION 2. Chapter 140, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 140.013 to read as follows:

Sec. 140.013. BALANCE BILLING FOR COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL AMBULANCE SERVICES. (a) "Balance billing" means the practice of charging an enrollee in a health benefit plan to recover from the enrollee the balance of a health care provider's fee for a service received by the enrollee from the health care provider that is not fully reimbursed by the enrollee's health benefit plan.

(b) A county or municipality may elect to consider a health benefit plan payment towards a claim for air or ground ambulance services provided by the county or municipality as payment in full for those services regardless of the amount the county or municipality charged for those services.

(c) A county or municipality may not practice balance

1 billing for a claim for which the county or municipality makes an  
2 election under Subsection (b).

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.