

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 5024

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing the Medicaid home health efficiency technologies pilot program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.077 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.077. MEDICAID HOME HEALTH EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGIES PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Efficiency technology" includes:

(A) location-aware AI-assisted home health scheduling software;

(B) telemedicine medical services software;

(C) logistics or route-optimization software;

and

(D) additional categories of technology that the commission determines may significantly improve the efficiency and capacity of home health services providers.

(2) "Home and community support services agency" and "home health service" have the meanings assigned by Section 142.001, Health and Safety Code.

(3) "Home health provider" means a home and community support services agency that provides home health services to recipients under Medicaid.

(4) "Pilot program" means the Medicaid home health

1 efficiency technologies pilot program established under this
2 section.

3 (b) The executive commissioner by rule shall develop and
4 implement a pilot program to increase access to and the capacity of
5 home health services under Medicaid. Under the program, the
6 commission shall incentivize home and community support services
7 agencies to adopt efficiency technologies by reimbursing those
8 providers for purchases of efficiency technologies.

9 (c) The pilot program shall operate for 20 months in the
10 following phases:

11 (1) an initial planning phase, not to exceed four
12 months, for designing the program;

13 (2) a 12-month operational phase that begins
14 immediately after the conclusion of the planning phase, during
15 which the commission shall:

16 (A) reimburse home health providers for the
17 purchase of efficiency technologies; and

18 (B) monitor reimbursements in a manner that
19 ensures there is sufficient data to evaluate the program's success;
20 and

21 (3) a wind-up phase, not to exceed four months, that
22 begins immediately after the conclusion of the operational phase,
23 during which the commission shall analyze data collected during the
24 operational phase and prepare and submit a report to the
25 legislature.

26 (d) The commission shall provide up to \$9,500 as
27 reimbursement for the one-time purchase of an efficiency technology

1 to the first 250 home health providers who:

2 (1) apply during the operational phase described by
3 Subsection (c)(2); and

4 (2) meet eligibility requirements.

5 (e) To be eligible for reimbursement under Subsection (d), a
6 home health services provider must:

7 (1) be in good standing with the commission; and

8 (2) submit an application in the form and manner
9 prescribed by the commission that includes:

10 (A) proof that the provider purchased an
11 efficiency technology after the commencement date of the pilot
12 program, including a copy of the paid invoice or receipt showing the
13 seller's name and address, the efficiency technology purchased, the
14 date of purchase, and the amount paid by the provider; and

15 (B) a statement from the provider that the
16 provider:

17 (i) has not purchased or used the same
18 efficiency technology from the same seller within the preceding 12
19 months; and

20 (ii) agrees to provide any data required by
21 the commission that is not accessible through Medicaid claims data.

22 (f) The commission may contract with a private entity to
23 assist the commission in implementing the pilot program, monitoring
24 reimbursements, collecting data during the operational phase, and
25 analyzing that data during the wind-up phase to evaluate and
26 measure the success of the program.

27 (g) The commission shall prepare and submit to the

1 legislature at least one report during the operational phase of the
2 pilot program that describes the program's progress and includes
3 any other information the commission determines appropriate.

4 (h) Not later than the 60th day after the date the pilot
5 program ceases operation, the commission shall prepare and submit
6 to the legislature a report on the program that contains:

7 (1) an objective evaluation of the program's effect
8 on:

9 (A) quality measures and outcomes for Medicaid
10 recipients;

11 (B) patient capacity, denial rates, and
12 timeliness of care after a home health provider receives a request
13 or referral for the provision of services by the provider; and

14 (C) home health providers' efficiency in
15 providing services, including:

16 (i) staff utilization and efficiency; and

17 (ii) cost of and miles driven for each home
18 visit to a Medicaid recipient by the provider;

19 (2) a comparison of the effectiveness and relative
20 benefit for each category of efficiency technology used during the
21 program;

22 (3) a cost benefit analysis of the program; and

23 (4) recommendations on the feasibility of
24 continuation and expansion of the program to all Medicaid
25 recipients and home health providers.

26 (i) The commission shall make the report prepared under
27 Subsection (g) available on the commission's publicly accessible

1 Internet website.

2 (j) This section expires September 1, 2025.

3 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
4 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
5 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement
6 Section 32.077, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act.

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

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.