

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the case assistance affiliate program to provide certain assistance to Medicaid recipients and child health plan program enrollees.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER T. CASE ASSISTANCE AFFILIATE PROGRAM

Sec. 531.801. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Case assistance affiliate" means a managed care organization or dental maintenance organization that participates in the program by assisting Medicaid recipients and child health plan program enrollees by providing application and renewal assistance and benefit case management services.

(2) "Case assistant" means an employee of a case assistance affiliate who directly provides application and renewal assistance and benefit case management services to a recipient or enrollee.

(3) "Enrollee" means an individual enrolled in the child health plan program.

(4) "Program" means the case assistance affiliate program established under this subchapter.

(5) "Program manager" means the employee of a case assistance affiliate who is designated by the affiliate to oversee:

1 (A) case assistants; and
2 (B) the application and renewal assistance
3 activities and benefit case management services provided by the
4 affiliate under the program.

5 (6) "Recipient" means a Medicaid recipient.

6 (7) "Virtual case assistance website" means an
7 Internet website described by Section 531.803.

8 Sec. 531.802. ESTABLISHMENT OF CASE ASSISTANCE AFFILIATE
9 PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall:

10 (1) establish a statewide case assistance affiliate
11 program under which managed care organizations and dental
12 maintenance organizations that participate in Medicaid or the child
13 health plan program are allowed to operate as case assistance
14 affiliates by maintaining virtual case assistance websites; and

15 (2) provide a training and certification process for
16 program managers and case assistants providing services under the
17 program.

18 (b) In establishing the program, the commission:

19 (1) shall consult with:

20 (A) experts, as determined by the commission; and

21 (B) other interested persons, including managed
22 care organizations and dental maintenance organizations
23 participating in Medicaid or the child health plan program; and

24 (2) may establish a work group or advisory committee
25 that includes interested persons to advise the commission on the
26 establishment of the program.

27 Sec. 531.803. VIRTUAL CASE ASSISTANCE WEBSITES. (a) A case

1 assistance affiliate shall establish and maintain Internet
2 websites for purposes of providing virtual application and renewal
3 assistance and benefit case management services to the recipients
4 and enrollees served by those organizations.

5 (b) In providing benefit case management services, a case
6 assistance affiliate may use its virtual case assistance website to
7 assist a recipient or enrollee with applying for and managing the
8 recipient's or enrollee's benefits under other public assistance
9 programs, including nutritional and financial assistance benefits.

10 (c) The commission shall ensure that a virtual case
11 assistance website allows a recipient or enrollee to access the
12 website from any electronic device that provides Internet access.

13 Sec. 531.804. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE. The commission shall
14 allow a case assistance affiliate to categorize the services the
15 affiliate provides under the program as administrative expenses.

16 Sec. 531.805. RULES: PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS.
17 The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement
18 the program, including rules:

19 (1) establishing requirements for a managed care
20 organization or dental maintenance organization to participate in
21 the program;

22 (2) establishing the training and certification
23 process required by Section 531.802(a)(2);

24 (3) providing for the suspension, revocation, and, as
25 appropriate, periodic renewal of a case assistant's or program
26 manager's certification;

27 (4) protecting the confidentiality of recipients' and

1 enrollees' information; and

2 (5) establishing any other standards or requirements
3 the executive commissioner determines necessary.

4 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
5 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
6 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
7 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
8 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
9 waiver or authorization is granted.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.