

By: Uresti

H.B. No. 124

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to availability of certain services under the Medicaid
3 program and making an appropriation.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 32.027, Human Resources Code, is amended
6 by adding Subsections (l) and (m) to read as follows:

7 (l) The department shall assure that a recipient of medical
8 assistance under this chapter may select a licensed psychologist or
9 a licensed marriage and family therapist, as defined by Section
10 502.002, Occupations Code, to perform any health care service or
11 procedure covered under the medical assistance program if the
12 selected psychologist or marriage and family therapist is
13 authorized by law to perform the service or procedure. This
14 subsection shall be liberally construed.

15 (m) The department shall assure that a recipient of medical
16 assistance under this chapter may select a licensed podiatrist to
17 perform any foot health care service or procedure covered under the
18 medical assistance program if the podiatrist is authorized by law
19 to perform the service or procedure. This subsection shall be
20 liberally construed.

21 SECTION 2. For the fiscal biennium beginning September 1,
22 2003, the Health and Human Services Commission is appropriated from
23 the general revenue fund the amount needed to provide the following
24 types of services under the Medicaid program in a manner comparable

1 to the manner in which the services were provided under the Medicaid
2 program during the preceding fiscal biennium: dental,
3 chiropractic, hearing, vision, home health, hospice, mental
4 health, physical therapy, speech therapy, substance abuse,
5 podiatry, psychology, professional counseling, and professional
6 marriage and family therapy.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
12 legislative session.