

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 111
By: Chavez
Human Services
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Medicaid health care providers are required under the Medicaid program to provide and arrange non-emergency transportation for their severely disabled Medicaid patients. This requirement includes obtaining prior authorization from the Health and Human Services Commission before contacting the ambulance provider for transportation. Currently, the medical assistance program can deny payment to the ambulance service provider if prior authorization is not received by the health care provider. House Bill 111 holds health care providers financially responsible if the ambulance service provider is denied payment because the health care provider did not receive prior authorization for the service.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly delegated to the Health and Human Services Commission in SECTION 1 (Section 32.024(t), Human Resources Code) of this bill.

ANALYSIS

House Bill 111 amends the Human Resource Code by providing that a ambulance service provider that is denied payment under Medicaid for services rendered is entitled to payment from the health care provider if the payment is denied due to lack of prior authorization by the health care provider, and the ambulance service provides the health care provider with a copy of the bill for which payment was denied.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act has immediate effect if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.