

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 493
By: Shapleigh
State Health Care Expenditures, Select
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, the level of funding that the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) receives enables TDMHMR to serve only about 27 percent of children in TDMHMR's projected priority population. As a result, more than 110,000 Texas children who may qualify for publicly funded mental health services remain untreated. S.B. 493 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to regularly evaluate program contractors and subcontractors that provide or arrange for services for persons enrolled in the Medicaid managed care program, and CHIP. HHSC will be required to monitor penetration rates, utilization rates, and provider networks.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 531B, Government Code, by adding Section 531.0224, as follows:

Sec. 531.0224. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES. (a) Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), to ensure appropriate delivery of mental health and substance abuse services, to regularly evaluate program contractors and subcontractors that provide or arrange for the services of persons enrolled in certain programs.

(b) Requires HHSC to monitor certain activities and rates relating to mental health and substance abuse services.

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act will take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the 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.