

By: Uresti

H.B. No. 1343

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing interpreter services to recipients of medical assistance or their parents or guardians.

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

SECTION 1. Section 32.024, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsection (z) to read as follows:

(z) In this subsection, "deaf" and "hard of hearing" have the meanings assigned by Section 81.001. The department shall provide interpreter services as requested during the receipt of medical assistance under this chapter to:

(1) a person receiving that assistance who is deaf or hard of hearing; or

(2) a parent or guardian of a person receiving that assistance if the parent or guardian is deaf or hard of hearing.

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

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.