

By: Christian

H.B. No. 1596

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a requirement that recipients of public assistance enroll dependent children in a public health care program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.063 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.063. ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN IN PUBLIC HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS. (a) In this section, "public health care program" includes the Medicaid program and the state child health plan program created under Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code.

(b) The commission shall adopt rules requiring a person receiving public assistance under a program administered by the commission or a health and human services agency, as a condition of receiving that assistance, to enroll each of the person's dependent children in any public health care program for which the child is eligible.

(c) In implementing the rules adopted under this section, the commission or the appropriate health and human services agency must:

(1) identify any public health care program in which a person is required to enroll a child; and

(2) assist the person with the procedures required to enroll the child in the identified program.

(d) The rules adopted under this section must include

1 procedures under which the commission or the appropriate health and
2 human services agency may exempt a person from the rules for good
3 cause. For purposes of this subsection, a person's inability to pay
4 any cost associated with enrollment in a public health care program
5 must be considered good cause for an exemption.

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

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
13 applies to a person who receives public assistance from the Health
14 and Human Services Commission or a health and human services agency
15 on or after that date, regardless of the date on which eligibility
16 for that assistance was determined.