

By: Madla

S.B. No. 598

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to conducting a study of Medicaid reimbursement of emergency medical services providers.

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

SECTION 1. (a) The Health and Human Services Commission, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Health, shall study the reimbursement of emergency medical services providers under the state Medicaid program to determine whether the providers are being reasonably reimbursed for their services under the program. In conducting the study, the commission shall:

(1) evaluate the methodology used to set the rate of reimbursement for the various services delivered by emergency medical services providers, including trauma services and emergency medical services;

(2) review the Medicaid reimbursement rates of emergency medical services providers by other states;

(3) compare the Medicaid reimbursement rates provided to emergency medical services providers in urban areas of this state with the rates provided for comparable services to emergency medical services providers in rural areas of this state; and

(4) review basic life-support services and advanced life-support services provided by emergency medical services providers, considering the cost and sophistication of equipment used and the training and certification required by personnel in

1 the delivery of those services, to determine whether those services
2 should continue to be reimbursed at the same rate.

3 (b) Not later than January 1, 2005, the Health and Human
4 Services Commission shall submit a report of the findings of the
5 study to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
6 house of representatives, and the clerks of the standing committees
7 of the senate and house of representatives with primary
8 jurisdiction over the state Medicaid program.

9 (c) This section expires September 1, 2005.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.