

By: Madla

S.B. No. 691

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reimbursement for telemedicine medical services under the Medicaid program and other government-funded programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 531.02173 and 531.02174 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.02173. ALIGNMENT OF MEDICAID TELEMEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES WITH MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES.

(a) The commission shall periodically review policies regarding reimbursement under the Medicaid program for telemedicine medical services to identify variations between permissible reimbursement under that program and reimbursement available to providers under the Medicare program.

(b) To the extent practicable, and notwithstanding any other state law, after conducting a review under Subsection (a) the commission may modify rules and procedures applicable to reimbursement under the Medicaid program for telemedicine medical services as necessary to provide for a reimbursement system that is comparable to the reimbursement system for those services under the Medicare program.

(c) The commission shall perform its duties under this section with assistance from the telemedicine advisory committee established under Section 531.02172.

1 Sec. 531.02174. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY REGARDING
2 TELEMEDICINE MEDICAL SERVICES. (a) In addition to the authority
3 granted by other law regarding telemedicine medical services, the
4 commission may review rules and procedures applicable to
5 reimbursement of telemedicine medical services provided through
6 any government-funded health program subject to the commission's
7 oversight.

8 (b) The commission may modify rules and procedures
9 described by Subsection (a) as necessary to ensure that
10 reimbursement for telemedicine medical services is provided in a
11 cost-effective manner and only in circumstances in which the
12 provision of those services is clinically effective.

13 (c) This section does not affect the commission's authority
14 or duties under other law regarding reimbursement of telemedicine
15 medical services under the Medicaid program.

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

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