

By: Carona

S.B. No. 1572

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the provision of treatment guidelines in the workers'  
3 compensation system.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 413.011, Subsection (e), Labor Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 413.011. REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES;  
8 TREATMENT GUIDELINES

9 (e) The commission by rule may adopt treatment guidelines  
10 and individual treatment protocols, including return-to-work  
11 guidelines. If adopted, treatment protocols and guidelines  
12 [~~adopted~~] must be nationally recognized, scientifically valid, and  
13 outcome-based and designed to reduce excessive or inappropriate  
14 medical care while safeguarding necessary medical care. If a  
15 nationally recognized treatment protocol or guideline is not  
16 available for adoption by the commission, then the commission is  
17 not prevented from adopting a treatment guideline or protocol as  
18 long as it is scientifically valid and outcome-based.

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