

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 6, 2003**

**TO:** Honorable Bill Ratliff, Chair, Senate Committee on State Affairs

**FROM:** John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: SB240** by Averitt (Relating to the enrollment of certain children and recipients of medical assistance in group health benefit plans.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would change the name of the Health Insurance Premium Payment Reimbursement Program for Children Eligible for Child Health Plan to the Health Insurance Premium Assistance Program for Children Eligible for Child Health Plan, and revise the operational requirements of the program. (The Child Health Plan refers to the Children's Health Insurance Program or CHIP.) The Health Insurance Premium Assistance Program allows the state to purchase employer-based insurance coverage for children who are CHIP-eligible if "premium assistance" is determined to be cost-effective compared to providing health insurance solely through CHIP. The bill would also replace references to the Department of Health with references to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

HHSC indicates that revisions to program requirements would align state law with the commission's waiver proposal to the federal government. HHSC also estimates there would be no significant fiscal impact to the agency and to the state.

**Local Government Impact**

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 405 Department Of Public Safety, 501 Department Of Health, 529 Health And Human Services Commission

**LBB Staff:** JK, RR, PP