

Amend CSSB 1188 (House Committee Printing) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION __. ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW OF MEDICAID DECISIONS. (a) Subchapter A, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.019 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.019. ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CERTAIN DECISIONS. (a) In this section, "medical assistance benefits" means benefits provided under the medical assistance program under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code.

(b) The proceedings of a hearing related to a decision regarding medical assistance benefits contested by an applicant for or recipient of the benefits that is conducted by the commission or a health and human services agency to which the commission delegates a function related to the benefits must be recorded electronically. Notwithstanding Section 2001.177, the cost of preparing the record and transcript required to be sent to a reviewing court may not be charged to the applicant for or recipient of the benefits.

(c) Before an applicant for or recipient of medical assistance benefits may appeal a decision of a hearing officer for the commission or a health and human services agency related to those benefits, the applicant or recipient must request an administrative review by an appropriate attorney of the commission or a health and human services agency, as applicable, in accordance with rules of the executive commissioner. Not later than the 15th business day after the date the attorney receives the request for administrative review, the attorney shall complete an administrative review of the decision and notify the applicant or recipient in writing of the results of that review.

(d) Except as provided by this section, Subchapters G and H, Chapter 2001, govern an appeal of a decision made by a hearing officer for the commission or a health and human services agency related to medical assistance benefits brought by an applicant for or recipient of the benefits.

(e) For purposes of Section 2001.171, an applicant for or recipient of medical assistance benefits has exhausted all

available administrative remedies and a decision, including a decision under Section 32.035, Human Resources Code, is final and appealable on the date that, after a hearing:

(1) the hearing officer for the commission or a health and human services agency reaches a final decision related to the benefits; and

(2) the appropriate attorney completes an administrative review of the decision and notifies the applicant or recipient in writing of the results of that review.

(f) For purposes of Section 2001.171, an applicant for or recipient of medical assistance benefits is not required to file a motion for rehearing with the commission or a health and human services agency, as applicable.

(g) Judicial review of a decision made by a hearing officer for the commission or a health and human services agency related to medical assistance benefits is under the substantial evidence rule and is instituted by filing a petition with a district court in Travis County, as provided by Subchapter G, Chapter 2001.

(h) An appeal described by Subsection (d) takes precedence over all civil cases except workers' compensation and unemployment compensation cases.

(i) The appellee is the commission.

(b) Section 2001.223, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2001.223. EXCEPTIONS FROM DECLARATORY JUDGMENT, COURT ENFORCEMENT, AND CONTESTED CASE PROVISIONS. Section 2001.038 and Subchapters C through H do not apply to:

(1) except as provided by Section 531.019, the granting, payment, denial, or withdrawal of financial or medical assistance or benefits under service programs that were operated by the former [of the] Texas Department of Human Services before September 1, 2003, and are operated on and after that date by the Health and Human Services Commission or a health and human services agency, as defined by Section 531.001;

(2) action by the Banking Commissioner or the Finance Commission of Texas regarding the issuance of a state bank or state trust company charter for a bank or trust company to assume the

assets and liabilities of a financial institution that the commissioner considers to be in hazardous condition as defined by Section 31.002(a) or 181.002(a), Finance Code, as applicable;

(3) a hearing or interview conducted by the Board of Pardons and Paroles or the pardons and paroles division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice relating to the grant, rescission, or revocation of parole or other form of administrative release; or

(4) the suspension, revocation, or termination of the certification of a breath analysis operator or technical supervisor under the rules of the Department of Public Safety.

(c) The changes in law made by this section apply only to an appeal of a final decision by the Health and Human Services Commission or a health and human services agency to which the commission delegates a function related to medical assistance benefits under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, that is rendered on or after the effective date of this Act. A final decision rendered by the commission or a health and human services agency before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the decision was rendered, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.