

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 445

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reimbursement rates for ambulance services under the medical assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.0451 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.0451. REIMBURSEMENT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall set the reimbursement rate for a provider of an ambulance service at a rate equal to the reimbursement rate for the same service under the Medicare fee schedule.

SECTION 2. (a) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act determine the revised reimbursement rates required under Section 32.0451, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act, and, except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, implement the new rates no later than January 1, 2006.

(b) If before implementing a provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.