

By: Solis

H.B. No. 682

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a dental services pilot program in border-region  
3 counties.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) The Department of State Health Services  
6 shall develop and implement a dental care pilot program to provide  
7 dental services to indigent children who are residents of this  
8 state in border-region counties selected by the department.

9 (b) The Department of State Health Services shall implement  
10 the pilot program to:

11 (1) improve the dental health of indigent children in  
12 the selected counties; and

13 (2) ensure certain children in selected counties  
14 receive dental services.

15 (c) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
16 Services Commission shall establish eligibility criteria for the  
17 pilot program. The criteria must require that program  
18 participants:

19 (1) live within the identified region;

20 (2) have a family income at or below 185 percent of the  
21 federal poverty level; and

22 (3) provide a parent's or guardian's written consent  
23 to receipt of dental services.

24 (d) The Department of State Health Services shall determine

1 the dental services to be provided to program participants, which  
2 may include:

- 3 (1) screening for various dental conditions; and
- 4 (2) filling cavities, cleaning teeth, and other dental  
5 services.

6 (e) In designing and implementing the program, the  
7 Department of State Health Services shall ensure that:

- 8 (1) a program participant receives, at no cost to the  
9 participant, dental services provided through the pilot program;  
10 and
- 11 (2) the quality of dental services provided to a  
12 program participant is frequently monitored and evaluated.

13 (f) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
14 Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services  
15 Commission shall establish eligibility criteria as required by  
16 Subsection (c) of this section and shall establish any other  
17 procedures or requirements necessary to implement this Act. The  
18 requirements of Chapter 2001, Government Code, relating to  
19 rulemaking do not apply to an action of the executive commissioner  
20 under this subsection.

21 (g) Not later than December 1, 2006, the Department of State  
22 Health Services shall submit a report to the legislature regarding  
23 the program that includes:

- 24 (1) an analysis of:
  - 25 (A) the program's cost-effectiveness; and
  - 26 (B) the program's effect on the quality of dental  
27 care received by program participants; and

1                   (2) recommendations           regarding           elimination,  
2 continuation, or expansion of the program.

3           (h) This section expires September 1, 2007.

4           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.