

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 691

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 691:

By: Paxton

C.S.H.B. No. 691

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a Medicaid health literacy pilot program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.02131 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.02131. MEDICAID HEALTH LITERACY PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In order to prevent unnecessary emergency room visits and health costs for Medicaid recipients, the commission shall develop and implement a Medicaid health literacy pilot program in Bexar County under which Medicaid recipients with young children receive health information materials and training designed to improve their health care decision-making.

(b) The pilot program must:

(1) establish a statistically significant test group and control group of Medicaid recipients with young children; and

(2) provide the test group with health information materials in English and Spanish that:

(A) are developed with consideration of the literacy level of the test group; and

(B) provide the test group with information to guide their health care decisions, including information about common health problems, prevention, home treatment, and circumstances in which it is appropriate to contact a health care professional.

1 (c) The commission shall establish the pilot program
2 through a local governmental entity in Bexar County that chooses to
3 participate. The commission shall request participation by the
4 Bexar County Hospital District with the hospital district's
5 subsidiary, Community First Health Plans.

6 (d) The commission shall ensure that the pilot program is
7 financed using:

8 (1) money provided to the commission for purposes of
9 the program by the participating local governmental entity to
10 maximize federal matching money under the medical assistance
11 program; and

12 (2) any corresponding federal matching money.

13 (e) The participating local governmental entity may provide
14 money to the commission by certification or intergovernmental
15 transfer to finance the pilot program as described by Subsection
16 (d)(1).

17 (f) Not later than January 1, 2007, the commission shall
18 evaluate the pilot program and report to the 80th Legislature on the
19 effectiveness of the program and the feasibility of expanding the
20 program statewide.

21 (g) This section expires September 1, 2009.

22 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
23 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
24 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
25 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
26 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
27 waiver or authorization is granted.

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