

AN ACT

relating to the use of acupuncturists as health care providers under certain health benefit plans.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 843, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 843.3041 to read as follows:

Sec. 843.3041. ACUPUNCTURIST SERVICES. (a) A health maintenance organization that includes acupuncture in the services covered by the organization's health care plan may not refuse to provide reimbursement for the performance of a covered acupuncture service solely because the service is performed by an acupuncturist.

(b) This section does not require a health maintenance organization to offer acupuncture as a covered service.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 1301, Insurance Code, as effective April 1, 2005, is amended by adding Section 1301.0515 to read as follows:

Sec. 1301.0515. ACUPUNCTURIST SERVICES. (a) An insurer offering a preferred provider benefit plan that includes acupuncture in the services covered by the plan may not refuse to provide reimbursement for the performance of a covered acupuncture service solely because the service is provided by an acupuncturist.

(b) This section does not require an insurer to offer acupuncture as a covered service.

1           SECTION 3. This Act applies only to an insurance policy,  
2   certificate, or contract or an evidence of coverage delivered,  
3   issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2006. A  
4   policy, certificate, or contract or evidence of coverage delivered,  
5   issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2006, is governed  
6   by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of  
7   this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

H.B. No. 2371

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2371 was passed by the House on May 13, 2005, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2371 was passed by the Senate on May 23, 2005, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 4.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor