

By: King of Zavala

H.B. No. 2371

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2371:

By: Thompson

C.S.H.B. No. 2371

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the use of acupuncturists as health care providers
3 under certain health benefit plans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (b) This section does not require an insurer to offer
24 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.