

1-1 By: King of Zavala (Senate Sponsor - Madla) H.B. No. 2371
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 16, 2005;
1-3 May 17, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-4 Affairs; May 20, 2005, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 1; May 20, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the use of acupuncturists as health care providers
1-9 under certain health benefit plans.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 843, Insurance Code, is
1-12 amended by adding Section 843.3041 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 843.3041. ACUPUNCTURIST SERVICES. (a) A health
1-14 maintenance organization that includes acupuncture in the services
1-15 covered by the organization's health care plan may not refuse to
1-16 provide reimbursement for the performance of a covered acupuncture
1-17 service solely because the service is performed by an
1-18 acupuncturist.

1-19 (b) This section does not require a health maintenance
1-20 organization to offer acupuncture as a covered service.

1-21 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 1301, Insurance Code, as
1-22 effective April 1, 2005, is amended by adding Section 1301.0515 to
1-23 read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 1301.0515. ACUPUNCTURIST SERVICES. (a) An insurer
1-25 offering a preferred provider benefit plan that includes
1-26 acupuncture in the services covered by the plan may not refuse to
1-27 provide reimbursement for the performance of a covered acupuncture
1-28 service solely because the service is provided by an acupuncturist.

1-29 (b) This section does not require an insurer to offer
1-30 acupuncture as a covered service.

1-31 SECTION 3. This Act applies only to an insurance policy,
1-32 certificate, or contract or an evidence of coverage delivered,
1-33 issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2006. A
1-34 policy, certificate, or contract or evidence of coverage delivered,
1-35 issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2006, is governed
1-36 by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of
1-37 this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-38 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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