

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 814

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) live within the identified region;

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

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

(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.