

Amend CSSB 10 (House Committee Printing) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.072 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.072. DIRECT ACCESS TO EYE HEALTH CARE SERVICES. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a recipient of medical assistance is entitled to:

(1) select an ophthalmologist or therapeutic optometrist who is a medical assistance provider to provide eye health care services that are within the scope of:

(A) services provided under the medical assistance program; and

(B) the professional specialty practice for which the ophthalmologist or therapeutic optometrist is licensed and credentialed; and

(2) have direct access to the selected ophthalmologist or therapeutic optometrist for the provision of the services without any requirement to obtain:

(A) a referral from a primary care physician or other gatekeeper or health care coordinator; or

(B) any other prior authorization or precertification.

(b) The department may require an ophthalmologist or therapeutic optometrist selected as provided by this section by a recipient of medical assistance who is otherwise required to have a primary care physician or other gatekeeper or health care coordinator to forward to the recipient's physician, gatekeeper, or health care coordinator information concerning the eye health care services provided to the recipient.

(c) This section may not be construed to expand the scope of eye health care services provided under the medical assistance program.

(b) Subchapter A, Chapter 533, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 533.0026 to read as follows:

Sec. 533.0026. DIRECT ACCESS TO EYE HEALTH CARE SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID MANAGED CARE MODEL OR ARRANGEMENT. Notwithstanding

any other law, the commission shall ensure that a managed care plan offered by a managed care organization that contracts with the commission under this chapter and any other Medicaid managed care model or arrangement implemented under this chapter allow a Medicaid recipient who receives services through the plan or other model or arrangement to, in the manner and to the extent required by Section 32.072, Human Resources Code:

(1) select an ophthalmologist or therapeutic optometrist to provide eye health care services; and

(2) have direct access to the selected ophthalmologist or therapeutic optometrist for the provision of the services.

(c) The changes in law made by Section 533.0026, Government Code, as added by this section, apply to a contract between the Health and Human Services Commission and a managed care organization under Chapter 533, Government Code, that is entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this section.