

1-1 By: Dukes (Senate Sponsor - Deuell) H.B. No. 321
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 30, 2007;
1-3 May 2, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Health
1-4 and Human Services; May 11, 2007, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 11, 2007, sent to printer.)

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

1-8 relating to the establishment of a pilot program by the Health and
1-9 Human Services Commission to accept importation of electronic
1-10 eligibility information from a regional indigent care provider.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
1-13 amended by adding Section 531.02413 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 531.02413. ELECTRONIC ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION PILOT
1-15 PROJECT. (a) The commission shall establish a pilot project in at
1-16 least one urban area of this state to determine the feasibility,
1-17 costs, and benefits of accepting, for the purpose of establishing
1-18 eligibility for benefits under state and federal health and human
1-19 services programs administered by the commission, the direct
1-20 importation of electronic eligibility information from an
1-21 electronic system operated by a regional indigent care
1-22 collaborative system.

1-23 (b) An area selected for the pilot project under this
1-24 section must possess a functioning indigent care collaborative
1-25 system that includes a network of providers and assesses
1-26 eligibility for health and human services programs using electronic
1-27 systems. The electronic systems used by the collaborative system
1-28 must be able to interface with electronic systems managed by the
1-29 commission to enable the commission to import application and
1-30 eligibility information regarding applicants for health and human
1-31 services programs.

1-32 (c) In establishing a pilot project under this section, the
1-33 commission shall:

1-34 (1) focus on creating a project in which electronic
1-35 applications for indigent care created by a regional indigent care
1-36 network may be shared with the commission to facilitate enrollment
1-37 in health and human services programs administered by the
1-38 commission;

1-39 (2) solicit and obtain support for the project from
1-40 local officials and indigent care providers;

1-41 (3) ensure that all identifying and descriptive
1-42 information of recipients in each health and human services program
1-43 included in the project can only be accessed by providers or other
1-44 entities participating in the project; and

1-45 (4) ensure that the storage and communication of all
1-46 identifying and descriptive information included in the project
1-47 complies with existing federal and state privacy laws governing
1-48 individually identifiable information for recipients of public
1-49 benefits programs.

1-50 SECTION 2. Not later than the 180th day after the effective
1-51 date of this Act, the Health and Human Services Commission shall
1-52 take action to begin implementation of the pilot project
1-53 established under Section 531.02413, Government Code, as added by
1-54 this Act.

1-55 SECTION 3. Not later than December 1, 2008, the Health and
1-56 Human Services Commission shall:

1-57 (1) assess the cost-effectiveness, efficacy,
1-58 efficiency, and benefits of using electronic eligibility
1-59 information imported from electronic systems operated by regional
1-60 indigent care collaborative systems; and

1-61 (2) report the commission's findings resulting from
1-62 the pilot project established under Section 531.02413, Government
1-63 Code, as added by this Act, to the standing committees of the senate
1-64 and the house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over

2-1 health and human services issues.

2-2 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act
2-3 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
2-4 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
2-5 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
2-6 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
2-7 waiver or authorization is granted.

2-8 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-12 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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