

By: Dukes

H.B. No. 322

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a study regarding the costs and benefits of providing
3 presumptive eligibility for Medicaid to certain applicants for
4 federal disability benefits.

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

6 SECTION 1. STUDY REGARDING COSTS AND BENEFITS OF
7 PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN PERSONS. (a) The Health and
8 Human Services Commission shall conduct a study to determine the
9 costs and benefits to this state of providing presumptive
10 eligibility for Medicaid to each person who applies for
11 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under 42 U.S.C. Section
12 1381 et seq., and who appears to meet the income and asset limits
13 for those benefits, during the period the person's application is
14 pending.

15 (b) The study shall examine:

16 (1) the administrative costs this state would incur in
17 providing the presumptive eligibility for Medicaid to persons
18 described by Subsection (a) of this section;

19 (2) other costs associated with providing the
20 presumptive eligibility; and

21 (3) the benefits to this state and to political
22 subdivisions of this state of providing the presumptive
23 eligibility, including:

24 (A) the savings that would be realized by

1 allowing persons given presumptive eligibility for Medicaid to
2 access health care services through Medicaid providers rather than
3 local hospital emergency rooms; and

4 (B) the additional federal Medicaid funds that
5 would be available to this state if the presumptive eligibility
6 were provided.

7 (c) Not later than October 1, 2008, the Health and Human
8 Services Commission shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant
9 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the
10 presiding officers of the standing committees of the senate and
11 house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over the
12 Medicaid program a report on the costs and benefits of providing
13 presumptive eligibility for Medicaid to persons described by
14 Subsection (a) of this section. The report must include a
15 description of any legislation necessary to provide the presumptive
16 eligibility to those persons.

17 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
18 1, 2007.