

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 756

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the Commission for Affordable and Accessible Health  
3 Benefit Plan Coverage.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "commission" means the  
6 Commission for Affordable and Accessible Health Benefit Plan  
7 Coverage established under Section 2 of this Act.

8 SECTION 2. COMMISSION; COMPOSITION. (a) Not later than the  
9 60th day after the effective date of this Act, the governor shall  
10 appoint a Commission for Affordable and Accessible Health Benefit  
11 Plan Coverage. The governor shall determine the size of the  
12 commission.

13 (b) The commission must include at least one member selected  
14 from a list of persons nominated by the speaker of the house of  
15 representatives and at least one member selected from a list of  
16 persons nominated by the lieutenant governor.

17 (c) The commission must include individuals with expertise  
18 in areas related to health care and health benefit plan coverage and  
19 may include representantives of:

20 (1) insurers, health maintenance organizations, or  
21 other health benefit plan issuers;

22 (2) physicians, hospitals, or other health care  
23 providers;

24 (3) providers of health care services under Medicaid,

1 the state child health plan, and other public health care programs,  
2 including providers of indigent care under Chapter 61, Health and  
3 Safety Code; and

4 (4) employers and businesses.

5 (d) The commission may include representatives of the Texas  
6 Department of Insurance, the Health and Human Services Commission,  
7 and other affected state agencies.

8 (e) The commission must include at least one representative  
9 of consumers of health care and health benefit plan coverage.

10 SECTION 3. CHAIRPERSON. The governor shall designate a  
11 member of the commission to serve as chairperson of the commission.

12 SECTION 4. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The Texas Department of  
13 Insurance shall provide administrative support services to the  
14 commission.

15 SECTION 5. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES. A  
16 member of the commission serves without compensation but is  
17 entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the  
18 performance of official commission duties from funds appropriated  
19 to the Texas Department of Insurance.

20 SECTION 6. STUDY. (a) The commission shall study  
21 alternative methods, including innovative programs implemented or  
22 under consideration in other states, to make health benefit plan  
23 coverage affordable for, and accessible to, as many residents of  
24 this state as is practicable.

25 (b) As part of the study conducted by the commission, the  
26 commission may conduct hearings in locations throughout the state  
27 to gather information.

1 SECTION 7. REPORT; RECOMMENDATION; PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

2 (a) The commission shall prepare a report identifying alternative  
3 methods to increase the affordability and accessibility of health  
4 benefit plan coverage in this state.

5 (b) The report must include the commission's recommendation  
6 concerning:

7 (1) a program or system to make coverage affordable  
8 for, and accessible to, as many residents of this state as is  
9 practicable; and

10 (2) whether the program or system should specify:

11 (A) the minimum benefits that are to be provided  
12 under the coverage; and

13 (B) the types and amounts of cost-sharing  
14 provisions, such as deductibles and copayments, that should be  
15 included in the coverage.

16 (c) The report may include alternative proposals and  
17 proposed pilot projects.

18 (d) The commission's report must include proposals for any  
19 legislation necessary to implement the commission's  
20 recommendations.

21 (e) Not later than September 1, 2008, the commission shall  
22 submit the report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker  
23 of the house of representatives.

24 SECTION 8. COMMISSION ABOLISHED; EXPIRATION OF ACT. The  
25 commission is abolished and this Act expires June 1, 2009.

26 SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
27 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members

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1 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
2 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
3 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.