

By: Veasey

H.B. No. 1793

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for hospital charity care.

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

SECTION 1. Section 311.031(11), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(11) "Hospital eligibility system" means the financial criteria and procedure used by a hospital to determine if a patient is eligible for charity care. The system shall include income levels and means testing indexed to the federal poverty guidelines; provided, however, that a hospital may not establish an eligibility system which sets the income level eligible for charity care lower than that required by counties under Section 61.023 or higher, in the case of the financially indigent, than 300 [~~200~~] percent of the federal poverty guidelines. A hospital may determine that a person is financially or medically indigent pursuant to the hospital's eligibility system after health care services are provided.

SECTION 2. Section 311.031(11), Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act applies to charity care provided to a patient on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.