

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 2511

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a dental services voucher pilot program in
3 border-region counties.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) The Department of State Health Services
6 shall develop and implement a dental service voucher pilot program
7 to provide dental services through the use of vouchers to indigent
8 children who are residents of this state in Texas-Mexico
9 border-region counties selected by the department.

10 (b) The Department of State Health Services shall implement
11 the pilot program to:

12 (1) improve the dental health of indigent children in
13 the selected counties through the provision of basic dental health
14 necessities under the supervision of licensed dentists; and

15 (2) ensure certain children in selected counties
16 receive necessary dental services, with a priority given to the
17 provision of emergency dental services.

18 (c) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
19 Services Commission shall establish eligibility criteria for the
20 pilot program. The criteria must require that program
21 participants:

22 (1) live within the identified region;

23 (2) have a family income at or below 185 percent of the
24 federal poverty level; and

1 (3) provide a parent's or guardian's written consent
2 to receipt of dental services.

3 (d) The Department of State Health Services shall determine
4 the dental services to be provided to program participants, which
5 may include:

6 (1) complete dental examinations, including
7 radiographs; and

8 (2) filling cavities, cleaning teeth, extractions,
9 pulpotomies, and other dental services.

10 (e) In designing and implementing the program, the
11 Department of State Health Services shall ensure that:

12 (1) a program participant receives, at no cost to the
13 participant, dental services provided through the pilot program;
14 and

15 (2) the quality of dental services provided to a
16 program participant is frequently monitored and evaluated.

17 (f) Not later than December 1, 2007, the executive
18 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
19 establish eligibility criteria as required by Subsection (c) of
20 this section and shall establish any other procedures or
21 requirements necessary to implement this Act. The requirements of
22 Chapter 2001, Government Code, relating to rulemaking do not apply
23 to an action of the executive commissioner under this subsection.

24 (g) Not later than December 1, 2008, the Department of State
25 Health Services shall submit a report to the legislature regarding
26 the program that includes:

27 (1) an analysis of:

1 (A) the effects of using vouchers for the
2 provision of basic dental care;

3 (B) the program's cost-effectiveness; and

4 (C) the program's effect on the quality of dental
5 care received by program participants; and

6 (2) recommendations regarding elimination,
7 continuation, or expansion of the program.

8 (h) This section expires September 1, 2009.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.