

By: Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 2853

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain health insurance plans for children.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 62.107 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.107. ALTERNATE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS FOR CHILDREN; PREMIUM SUBSIDY PROGRAM. (a) In this section, a "child-only health plan" is a health benefit plan for children as described by Chapter 1502, Insurance Code.

(b) The commission shall provide information about child-only health plans to families of children determined to be ineligible for the child health plan. The information must include a list of child health plan providers that offer child-only health plans.

(c) Subject to available funding, the commission shall implement a premium subsidy program to provide up to six months of premium assistance to children who lose eligibility for the child health plan to assist in the purchase of coverage under a child-only health plan. The commission shall determine the amount of a premium subsidy under this subsection.

(d) A health plan provider may offer a child-only health plan to a child who had enrolled in child health plan coverage issued by the health plan provider and who is ineligible for that coverage because the child's family income exceeds the income

1 eligibility level established under this chapter.

2 SECTION 2. Section 1502.051, Insurance Code, is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 Sec. 1502.051. CHILDREN'S HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN. A health
5 benefit plan issuer may offer a children's health benefit plan that
6 provides coverage only to children younger than 18 years of age.
7 Any health benefit plan offered by a health benefit plan issuer that
8 is made available only to children younger than 18 years of age may
9 be considered a children's health benefit plan for purposes of this
10 section [~~The issuer may offer the plan only if the commissioner~~
11 ~~approves the plan's structure and the benefits offered under the~~
12 ~~plan~~].

13 SECTION 3. Section 1506.253, Insurance Code, is amended by
14 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

15 (d) A children's health benefit plan subject to Chapter 1502
16 is not subject to an assessment under this chapter.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.