

By: Vo

H.B. No. 3933

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to regulation of payment of healthcare providers.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a)(4), Section 843.321, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(4) the contract may be terminated by the physician or provider on or before the 30th day after the date the physician or provider receives information requested under ~~[this]~~ subsection (3) without penalty or discrimination in participation in other health care products or plans.

SECTION 2. Subsection (f), Section 843.348, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f) A health maintenance organization shall have appropriate personnel reasonably available at a toll-free telephone number to respond to requests for a preauthorization between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. central time Monday through Friday on each day that is not a legal holiday ~~[and between 9 a.m. and noon central time on Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays]~~. A health maintenance organization must have a telephone system capable of accepting or recording incoming phone calls for preauthorizations after 6 p.m. central time Monday through Friday and ~~[after noon central time]~~ on Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays and responding to each of those calls not later than ~~[24 hours]~~ the next business day after the call is received.

1 SECTION 3. Subsection (e), Section 1301.135, Insurance
2 Code, is amended to read as follows:

3 (e) An insurer shall have appropriate personnel reasonably
4 available at a toll-free telephone number to respond to requests
5 for a preauthorization between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. central time Monday
6 through Friday on each day that is not a legal holiday and between 9
7 a.m. and noon central time on Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays.
8 An insurer must have a telephone system capable of accepting or
9 recording incoming phone calls for preauthorizations after 6 p.m.
10 central time Monday through Friday [~~and after noon central time on~~
11 ~~Saturday, Sunday, and legal holidays~~] and responding to each of
12 those calls not later than [~~24 hours~~] the next business day after
13 the call is received.

14 SECTION 4. Subsection (4), Section 1301.136(a), Insurance
15 Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 (4) the contract may be terminated by the preferred provider
17 on or before the 30th day after the date the preferred provider
18 receives information requested under [~~this~~] subsection (3) without
19 penalty or discrimination in participation in other health care
20 products or plans.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.