

By: Van de Putte, Janek, West, Royce

S.B. No. 2036

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the implementation of specialized targeted initiatives
3 and other actions necessary to comply with certain settlement
4 agreements.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 531.02114 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 531.02114. IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIALIZED TARGETED
9 INITIATIVES OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS. (a) Notwithstanding any other
10 law, including any provision of this chapter or Chapter 533 or of
11 Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, and subject to available
12 appropriations, the commission may take any necessary action,
13 including obtaining any necessary waiver or other authorization
14 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or another
15 appropriate federal agency, to implement the specialized targeted
16 initiatives and any other requirements specified in the final
17 settlement agreement in the case styled Frew, on behalf of her
18 daughter, Frew, et al. v. Hawkins, Commissioner, Texas Health and
19 Human Services Commission, et al., approved by the United States
20 District Court, Eastern District of Texas.

21 (b) Specialized targeted initiatives the commission may
22 implement or other actions the commission may take, subject to the
23 requirements of the settlement agreement, include initiatives OR
24 actions to:

1 (1) improve outreach efforts and access to information
2 with respect to the children's Medicaid program, including to
3 improve access to information provided through toll-free telephone
4 numbers;

5 (2) improve access to information about and services
6 under the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment
7 program;

8 (3) increase reimbursement rates for health and dental
9 services provided through the children's Medicaid program;

10 (4) update listings of Medicaid providers for health
11 and dental services and increase the number of those providers;

12 (5) hire additional staff to assist families in
13 accessing Medicaid services;

14 (6) increase access to services by improving the
15 medical transportation program for Medicaid recipients; and

16 (7) enhance standards for the delivery of children's
17 Medicaid services through Medicaid managed care delivery models
18 under Chapter 533.

19 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
20 may develop and implement a program to provide repayment assistance
21 for education loans incurred by physicians, dentists, and other
22 health or dental care providers who agree to provide services
23 through the medical assistance program operated under Chapter 32,
24 Human Resources Code, in underserved areas of this state, subject
25 to available appropriations and to the extent implementation of the
26 program is necessary to comply with the final settlement agreement
27 in the case styled Frew, on behalf of her daughter, Frew, et al. v.

1 Hawkins, Commissioner, Texas Health and Human Services Commission,
2 et al., approved by the United States District Court, Eastern
3 District of Texas. The coordinating board shall model the
4 repayment program under this section after the repayment assistance
5 program authorized by Subchapter J, Chapter 61, Education Code, but
6 may deviate from the requirements of the program under that
7 subchapter as necessary to comply with the requirements of the
8 settlement agreement and to reflect differences in the eligibility
9 criteria for the repayment assistance program under this section.

10 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any other law, each state agency
11 may take all necessary actions, subject to available
12 appropriations, to implement the specialized targeted initiatives
13 and any other requirements specified in the final settlement
14 agreement in the case styled Frew, on behalf of her daughter, Frew,
15 et al. v. Hawkins, Commissioner, Texas Health and Human Services
16 Commission, et al., approved by the United States District Court,
17 Eastern District of Texas.

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