

By: Dukes

H.B. No. 583

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to expansion of the electronic eligibility information
3 pilot project operated by the Health and Human Services Commission.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 531.02413(a) and (c), Government Code,
6 as added by Chapter 605 (H.B. 321), Acts of the 80th Legislature,
7 Regular Session, 2007, are amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The commission shall establish a pilot project in at
9 least two [~~one~~] urban areas [~~area~~] of this state to determine the
10 feasibility, costs, and benefits of accepting, for the purpose of
11 establishing eligibility for benefits under state and federal
12 health and human services programs administered by the commission,
13 the direct importation of electronic eligibility information from
14 [~~an~~] electronic systems [~~system~~] operated by [~~a~~] regional indigent
15 care collaborative systems [~~system~~].

16 (c) In establishing a pilot project under this section, the
17 commission shall:

18 (1) create [~~focus on creating~~] a project in which
19 electronic applications for indigent care created by [~~a~~] regional
20 indigent care networks are directly imported into the Texas
21 Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS), the System of
22 Application, Verification, Eligibility, Referral, and Reporting
23 (SAVERR), or another state electronic eligibility system, as
24 appropriate, [~~network may be shared with the commission~~] to

1 facilitate enrollment in health and human services programs
2 administered by the commission;

3 (2) solicit and obtain support for the project from
4 local officials and indigent care providers;

5 (3) ensure that all identifying and descriptive
6 information of recipients in each health and human services program
7 included in the project can only be accessed by providers or other
8 entities participating in the project; and

9 (4) ensure that the storage and communication of all
10 identifying and descriptive information included in the project
11 complies with existing federal and state privacy laws governing
12 individually identifiable information for recipients of public
13 benefits programs.

14 SECTION 2. Not later than the 30th day after the effective
15 date of this Act, the Health and Human Services Commission shall
16 take action to begin expansion, as required by this Act, of the
17 pilot project established under Section 531.02413, Government
18 Code, as added by Chapter 605 (H.B. 321), Acts of the 80th
19 Legislature, Regular Session, 2007.

20 SECTION 3. Not later than October 1, 2010, the Health and
21 Human Services Commission shall:

22 (1) assess the cost-effectiveness, efficacy,
23 efficiency, and benefits of using electronic eligibility
24 information imported from electronic systems operated by regional
25 indigent care collaborative systems; and

26 (2) report the commission's findings resulting from
27 the pilot project established under Section 531.02413, Government

1 Code, as added by Chapter 605 (H.B. 321), Acts of the 80th
2 Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, to the standing committees of
3 the senate and house of representatives having primary jurisdiction
4 over health and human services issues.

5 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act
6 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
7 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
8 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
9 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
10 waiver or authorization is granted.

11 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.