

By: Zerwas

H.B. No. 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to bariatric surgery coverage for state employees.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1551.227 to read as follows:

Sec. 1551.227. STUDY OF AND COVERAGE FOR BARIATRIC SURGICAL PROCEDURES. (a) Not later than January 1 of each year, the board of trustees shall annually study the issue of provision of bariatric surgery coverage under a group health benefit plan offered under the group benefits program. The board shall determine the cost that the state can be expected to incur and the benefits the state can be expected to realize by providing coverage for bariatric surgical procedures for state employees that is at least as extensive as the benefit for bariatric surgery provided to Medicare beneficiaries under the National Coverage Determinations Manual published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on February 15, 2006.

(b) If the board of trustees determines that providing the coverage described by Subsection (a) for the plan year following the plan year in which the study is completed would be cost-neutral or cost-positive to the state, the board shall provide the benefit for the plan year following the plan year in which the study is completed.

SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2010, the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas shall complete

H.B. No. 2026

1 the first study required under Section 1551.227, Insurance Code, as  
2 added by this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.