

By: Shelton

H.B. No. 2686

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a pilot project to increase enrollee access to primary  
3 care services and simplify enrollment procedures under the child  
4 health plan program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 62, Health and Safety  
7 Code, is amended by adding Section 62.160 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 62.160. PILOT PROJECT TO INCREASE ENROLLEE ACCESS TO  
9 PRIMARY CARE SERVICES AND SIMPLIFY ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES. (a) In  
10 this section:

11 (1) "CPT code" means the number assigned to identify a  
12 specific health care procedure performed by a health care provider  
13 under the American Medical Association's "Current Procedural  
14 Terminology 2009 Professional Edition" or a subsequent edition of  
15 that publication adopted by the executive commissioner by rule.

16 (2) "Lower-cost medical setting" means a facility,  
17 clinic, center, office, or other setting primarily used to provide  
18 primary care services.

19 (3) "Primary care services" means health services  
20 generally provided through a general, family, internal medicine, or  
21 pediatrics practice. The term does not include services provided  
22 through a hospital emergency room or surgical services.

23 (4) "Service area" means the geographical area  
24 described by Subsection (b) in which the pilot project is

1 established.

2 (b) The commission shall establish a two-year pilot project  
3 in one or more Medicaid Service Areas to:

4 (1) increase child health plan enrollee access to  
5 primary care services; and

6 (2) simplify child health plan enrollment procedures.

7 (c) In establishing the pilot project under this section,  
8 the executive commissioner shall:

9 (1) for the service area, establish health care  
10 provider reimbursement rates for primary care services provided in  
11 lower-cost medical settings that are comparable to the federal  
12 Medicare program rates for the same or similar services;

13 (2) waive the copayment requirement for primary care  
14 services under Section 62.153 for an enrollee who resides in the  
15 service area and who receives primary care services in a lower-cost  
16 medical setting, but continue to impose other copayments required  
17 under that section;

18 (3) identify CPT codes that represent primary care  
19 services for purposes of Subdivisions (1) and (2);

20 (4) prescribe and use an alternative application for  
21 child health plan coverage that is written on a sixth-grade reading  
22 comprehension level; and

23 (5) require any enrollment services provider in the  
24 service area to reduce application processing delays and procedural  
25 denials and increase renewal rates.

26 (d) Notwithstanding Section 62.102(a), an individual who  
27 resides in the service area and who is determined eligible for

1 coverage under the child health plan remains eligible for benefits  
2 until the earlier of:

3 (1) the end of a period not to exceed 24 months,  
4 beginning on the first day of the month following the date of the  
5 eligibility determination;

6 (2) the individual's 19th birthday; or

7 (3) the date the pilot project expires, subject to  
8 Subsection (f).

9 (e) The commission shall:

10 (1) perform the review required by Section 62.102(b)  
11 during the 12th month, rather than the sixth month, following the  
12 date of initial enrollment or reenrollment of an individual who  
13 resides in the service area and who would otherwise be subject to  
14 that section; and

15 (2) provide at least one point of service contact in  
16 each county in the service area where trained personnel are  
17 available to personally assist interested individuals who reside in  
18 the service area with the application form and procedures for child  
19 health plan coverage.

20 (f) If under Subsection (d)(3) an individual's coverage  
21 under the child health plan would end on a date that is earlier than  
22 the date the period described by Section 62.102(a)(1) expires, the  
23 individual remains eligible until the expiration of the period  
24 provided by Section 62.102. The executive commissioner shall adopt  
25 rules specifying the applicability of the review under Section  
26 62.102(b) to an individual described by this section.

27 (g) Not later than December 1, 2010, the commission shall

1 submit an initial report to the governor, the lieutenant governor,  
2 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding  
3 officers of the standing committees of the senate and house of  
4 representatives having primary jurisdiction over the child health  
5 plan program. The report must evaluate the operation of the pilot  
6 project and make recommendations regarding the continuation or  
7 expansion of the pilot project. The report must:

8 (1) state whether:

9 (A) a higher percentage of eligible individuals  
10 in the service area enrolled in the child health plan as a result of  
11 the pilot project, as compared to percentages in other areas;

12 (B) a higher percentage of health plan providers  
13 in the service area participated in the child health plan as a  
14 result of the pilot project, as compared to percentages in other  
15 areas; and

16 (C) the enrollment changes implemented under the  
17 pilot project:

18 (i) reduced application processing delays  
19 and procedural denials; and

20 (ii) affected reenrollment rates; and

21 (2) include recommendations for the statewide  
22 implementation of successful pilot project strategies.

23 (h) The commission shall submit a final report regarding the  
24 results of the pilot project in the manner prescribed by Subsection  
25 (g) not later than November 1, 2011. The report must contain the  
26 information required by Subsection (g).

27 (i) This section expires December 1, 2011.

1           SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2009, the Health and  
2 Human Services Commission shall establish the pilot project  
3 required under Section 62.160, Health and Safety Code, as added by  
4 this Act.

5           SECTION 3. 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 4. 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.