

By: Rose

H.B. No. 3284

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continued monitoring and enhancement of health and human services information technology systems.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter M, Chapter 531, Government Code, as added by Chapter 1110 (H.B. 3575), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, is amended by adding Sections 531.4541, 531.4551, 531.4552, and 531.4553 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.4541. POST-TRANSITION ELIGIBILITY SYSTEM REVIEW.

The executive commissioner shall contract with an independent validation and verification contractor to independently evaluate and monitor the enhanced eligibility system to:

(1) assess whether the system is fully functional relative to the needs of eligible Texas residents;

(2) determine whether the goals described in Section 531.452 are being met; and

(3) allow for the timely, cost-effective resolution of any issues that arise with the system.

Sec. 531.4551. STAFFING ANALYSIS FOR TIERS. The commission shall conduct a thorough analysis of staffing needs, including the need for additional state employees and contractor staff, to ensure that the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) is capable of meeting benefits application processing demands, including being capable of processing those applications

1 accurately and in accordance with state and federal timeliness
2 requirements.

3 Sec. 531.4552. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS. (a) The executive
4 commissioner by rule shall adopt for the enhanced eligibility
5 system a methodology for establishing minimum levels of eligibility
6 determination staff, qualifications for that staff, and the maximum
7 caseload per staff person, that will ensure that eligibility
8 determinations are made within applicable processing time
9 requirements established by state and federal law and are
10 accurately made.

11 (b) The executive commissioner by rule shall also adopt
12 additional performance standards with respect to the enhanced
13 eligibility system that apply to all eligibility determination
14 staff persons, regardless of whether those persons are state
15 employees, contractors, or contractors' employees.

16 Sec. 531.4553. PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING PROCESSES. (a)
17 The commission, the comptroller, the attorney general, and the
18 state auditor's office shall collectively develop written
19 recommendations for transparent procurement and contracting
20 processes for use in entering into any contract relating to an
21 aspect of the operation or improvement of the enhanced eligibility
22 system.

23 (b) The commission shall implement the processes developed
24 under Subsection (a) in issuing a request for proposals and
25 entering into any contract described by that subsection after the
26 recommendations have been completed.

27 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act

1 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
2 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
3 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
4 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
5 waiver or authorization is granted.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.