

AN ACT

relating to a staffing analysis of the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) and benefits eligibility determination processes.

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 Section 531.4551 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.4551. STAFFING ANALYSIS FOR ENHANCED ELIGIBILITY SYSTEM. (a) The commission shall conduct a thorough analysis of staffing needs, including the need for additional state employees and contractor staff, with respect to the enhanced eligibility system and the expansion of the use of the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS). The commission shall identify in the analysis:

(1) the number of full-time equivalent positions the commission needs to implement the system in a manner that, if met, will ensure that the system remains fully functional and that no lapses in the provision of health and human services program benefits will occur under the system; and

(2) the number of full-time equivalent positions any contractor would need to perform contracted functions to implement the system in that manner.

1 (b) In determining the total number of commission and
2 contractor full-time equivalent positions needed as required by
3 Subsection (a), the commission shall consider the number of
4 full-time equivalent positions necessary to comply with:

5 (1) state and federal requirements related to health
6 and human services program access, including requirements related
7 to timeliness and accuracy of application processing, delivery of
8 expedited services and benefits, and seamless transfers of eligible
9 children between the Medicaid and child health plan programs; and

10 (2) the commission's performance standards and
11 benchmarks for health and human services programs, including
12 maximum caseload specifications.

13 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
14 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
15 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
16 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
17 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
18 waiver or authorization is granted.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3859 was passed by the House on May 13, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 94, Nays 51, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3859 on May 29, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 91, Nays 54, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3859 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor