

By: Herrero

H.B. No. 3859

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to ensuring the functionality of the Texas Integrated
3 Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) and benefits eligibility
4 determination processes.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter M, Chapter 531, Government Code, as
7 added by Chapter 1110 (H.B. 3575), Acts of the 80th Legislature,
8 Regular Session, 2007, is amended by adding Sections 531.4551 and
9 531.4552 to read as follows:

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

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

22 (2) the number of full-time equivalent positions any
23 contractor would need to perform contracted functions to implement
24 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 Sec. 531.4552. PREREQUISITES TO TIERS EXPANSION. The
14 commission shall ensure that the use of the Texas Integrated
15 Eligibility Redesign System (TIERS) will not be expanded to
16 additional counties, and no additional health and human services
17 program benefits cases will be converted to that system, until the
18 system:

19 (1) is fully functional;

20 (2) meets state and federal requirements related to
21 timeliness and accuracy of benefits application processing; and

22 (3) has the hardware capacity to effectively and
23 efficiently process existing cases in each region proposed to be
24 converted to that system.

25 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
26 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
27 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,

1 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
2 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
3 waiver or authorization is granted.

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