

By: Farias, Guillen

H.B. No. 4393

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a pilot program to provide electronic prescribing tools to rural physicians.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter M-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M-1. ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING TOOLS PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 531.471. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "physician" and "rural" have the definitions assigned by Section 487.601.

Sec. 531.472. PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall develop a pilot program to provide electronic prescribing tools at no cost to physicians in rural areas to increase clinical quality, reduce unnecessary costs, and streamline workflows.

(b) The pilot program shall provide services to not more than 50 physicians in rural areas practicing in not more than five counties in this state.

(c) The pilot program shall provide the participating physicians with:

(1) software that:

(A) connects physicians to a medication database;

(B) tracks patient prescription histories;

(C) provides drug interaction data and information on dosages; and

1           (D) notifies the physician in real time of the  
2 formulary status of a drug;

3           (2) a high-speed Internet connection;

4           (3) electronic equipment, if necessary; and

5           (4) training on the use of the software, Internet  
6 tools, and equipment in the pilot program.

7           (d) The commission may contract with an outside company for  
8 the creation of software or for use of existing software.

9           (e) The commission shall select physicians for  
10 participation in the program based on a physician's current access  
11 to technology that assists in prescribing.

12           Sec. 531.473. REPORT. (a) The commission shall submit a  
13 report on the implementation of the pilot program under this  
14 subchapter to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the  
15 house of representatives, and legislature not later than January 1,  
16 2010.

17           (b) The report must include an assessment of any benefits of  
18 the pilot program and any recommendations for future legislation.

19           Sec. 531.474. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires  
20 September 1, 2011.

21           SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
22 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
23 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
24 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
25 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
26 waiver or authorization is granted.

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