

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 888

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to establishing a pill splitting program to reduce health  
3 plan costs for certain public employees.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 1551.225 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 1551.225. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILL SPLITTING PROGRAM.

8 (a) In this section:

9 (1) "Eligible prescription pill" means a prescription  
10 medication delivered in pill form and in a dosage that is  
11 appropriate for splitting.

12 (2) "Pill splitting" means dividing an eligible  
13 prescription pill to obtain a prescribed dose.

14 (b) The board of trustees by rule shall design and establish  
15 a voluntary pill splitting program. The pill splitting program  
16 must:

17 (1) include a copayment reduction incentive for  
18 individuals covered by the group benefits program who participate  
19 in the pill splitting program; and

20 (2) require an individual who participates in the pill  
21 splitting program to:

22 (A) obtain a prescription for an eligible  
23 prescription pill authorizing pill splitting from the prescribing  
24 physician before participating; and

1                   (B) personally split the eligible prescription  
2 pill.

3                   (c) The board of trustees shall establish a list of eligible  
4 prescription pills and shall periodically update the list.

5                   (d) The board of trustees shall report at least annually to  
6 the Legislative Budget Board and the governor on the design of the  
7 pill splitting program, the medications included on the list of  
8 eligible prescription pills, participation in the program, and cost  
9 savings resulting from the program.

10                  SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 1575, Insurance Code, is  
11 amended by adding Section 1575.171 to read as follows:

12                  Sec. 1575.171. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILL SPLITTING PROGRAM.

13                  (a) In this section:

14                         (1) "Eligible prescription pill" means a prescription  
15 medication delivered in pill form and in a dosage that is  
16 appropriate for splitting.

17                         (2) "Pill splitting" means dividing an eligible  
18 prescription pill to obtain a prescribed dose.

19                         (b) The trustee by rule shall design and establish a  
20 voluntary pill splitting program. The pill splitting program must:

21                                 (1) include a copayment reduction incentive for  
22 individuals covered by the group program who participate in the  
23 pill splitting program; and

24                                 (2) require an individual who participates in the pill  
25 splitting program to:

26   (A) obtain a prescription for an eligible  
27 prescription pill authorizing pill splitting from the prescribing

1 physician before participating; and

2 (B) personally split the eligible prescription  
3 pill.

4 (c) The trustee shall establish a list of eligible  
5 prescription pills and shall periodically update the list.

6 (d) The trustee shall report at least annually to the  
7 Legislative Budget Board and the governor on the design of the pill  
8 splitting program, medications included on the list of eligible  
9 prescription pills, participation in the program, and cost savings  
10 resulting from the program.

11 SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 1579, Insurance Code, is  
12 amended by adding Section 1579.109 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 1579.109. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILL SPLITTING PROGRAM.

14 (a) In this section:

15 (1) "Eligible prescription pill" means a prescription  
16 medication delivered in pill form and in a dosage that is  
17 appropriate for splitting.

18 (2) "Pill splitting" means dividing an eligible  
19 prescription pill to obtain a prescribed dose.

20 (b) The trustee by rule shall design and establish a  
21 voluntary pill splitting program. The pill splitting program must:

22 (1) include a copayment reduction incentive for  
23 individuals covered by a health coverage plan under this subchapter  
24 who participate in the pill splitting program; and

25 (2) require an individual who participates in the pill  
26 splitting program to:

27 (A) obtain a prescription for an eligible

1 prescription pill authorizing pill splitting from the prescribing  
2 physician before participating; and

3 (B) personally split the eligible prescription  
4 pill.

5 (c) The trustee shall establish a list of eligible  
6 prescription pills and shall periodically update the list.

7 (d) The trustee shall report at least annually to the  
8 Legislative Budget Board and the governor on the design of the pill  
9 splitting program, medications included in the list of eligible  
10 prescription pills, participation in the pill splitting program,  
11 and cost savings resulting from the pill splitting program.

12 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 1601, Insurance Code, is  
13 amended by adding Section 1601.111 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 1601.111. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILL SPLITTING PROGRAM.

15 (a) In this section:

16 (1) "Eligible prescription pill" means a prescription  
17 medication delivered in pill form and in a dosage that is  
18 appropriate for splitting.

19 (2) "Pill splitting" means dividing an eligible  
20 prescription pill to obtain a prescribed dose.

21 (b) Each system by rule shall design and establish a  
22 voluntary pill splitting program. The pill splitting program must:

23 (1) include a copayment reduction incentive for  
24 individuals covered by a health benefit plan provided under this  
25 chapter who participate in the program; and

26 (2) require an individual who participates in the  
27 program to:

1           (A) obtain a prescription for an eligible  
2 prescription pill authorizing pill splitting from the prescribing  
3 physician before participating; and

4           (B) personally split the eligible prescription  
5 pill.

6           (c) Each system shall establish a list of eligible  
7 prescription pills and shall periodically update the list.

8           (d) Each system shall report at least annually to the  
9 Legislative Budget Board and the governor on the design of the pill  
10 splitting program, medications included in the list of eligible  
11 prescription pills, participation in the program, and cost savings  
12 resulting from the program.

13           SECTION 5. The initial reports required by Sections  
14 1551.225(d), 1575.171(d), 1579.109(d), and 1601.111(d), Insurance  
15 Code, as added by this Act, are due not later than December 1, 2010.

16           SECTION 6. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
17 health benefit plans provided under Chapters 1551, 1575, 1579, and  
18 1601, Insurance Code, beginning with the 2009-2010 plan year. A  
19 plan year before 2009-2010 is governed by the law as it existed  
20 immediately before September 1, 2009, and that law is continued in  
21 effect for that purpose.

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