

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1841

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a managed care pilot program to prevent high-risk pregnancies that result in the birth of premature or low birth weight infants.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.02491 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.02491. BIRTH COST-CONTAINMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Low birth weight infant" means an infant who weighs less than 5.5 pounds or 2,500 grams at birth.

(2) "Managed care organization" and "managed care plan" have the meanings assigned by Section 533.001, Government Code.

(3) "Premature infant" means an infant born before completing 37 weeks of gestation.

(b) The department shall establish a pilot program under which health care services are provided for an additional period of 18 months after the termination of Medicaid for pregnant women coverage who deliver premature or low birth weight infants.

(c) The health care services required under the pilot program shall be provided through the Medicaid managed care organizations.

(d) The pilot program must be established in the service

1 delivery area that includes Bexar County and its contiguous
2 counties.

3 (e) The Medicaid managed care organizations participating
4 in the pilot program shall develop and implement an outreach
5 program to identify women who are eligible for participation in the
6 pilot program and provide those women with information about and
7 assistance with applying for the pilot program.

8 (f) The department shall facilitate a seamless transition
9 from Medicaid for pregnant women coverage into the pilot program.

10 (g) a woman who received Medicaid for pregnant program
11 coverage and participates in the pilot program will remain enrolled
12 in the same Medicaid managed care organization for the duration of
13 the period during which she receives services under the pilot
14 program.

15 (h) The Medicaid managed care organization participating in
16 the pilot program shall assist a woman who does not become pregnant
17 during the period of her enrollment in the pilot program with
18 establishing eligibility for the Women's Health Care Services
19 Demonstration Project established under Section 32.0248.

20 (i) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
21 Services Commission may adopt rules to implement this section.

22 (j) Not later than December 1, 2010, the department shall
23 submit a report to the legislature regarding the department's
24 progress in establishing and operating the pilot program; and an
25 evaluation of the budget neutrality of the pilot program.

26 SECTION 2. If the commission determines that the pilot
27 program is budget neutral, the commission shall actively seek and

1 apply for any available federal funds, including Medicaid and
2 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, to assist in
3 financing the pilot program established under this subchapter.

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