

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1842

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a Medicaid 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. HIGH-RISK PREGNANCY PREVENTION 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; and

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

(b) The department shall, in coordination with the work group created under Subdivision 2(e)(1):

(1) develop a concept paper for submission to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a pilot program under which medical assistance is provided for an additional period of 18 months after delivery to women who deliver premature or low birth weight infants while receiving medical assistance; and

1 (2) if feasible, develop and seek a waiver or
2 authorization from a federal agency to establish a pilot program
3 under which medical assistance is provided for an additional period
4 of 18 months after delivery to women who deliver premature or low
5 birth weight infants while receiving medical assistance.

6 (c) Medical assistance required under the pilot program
7 shall be provided through the Medicaid managed care program
8 implemented under Chapter 533, Government Code.

9 (d) The pilot program must be established in the service
10 delivery area that includes Bexar County.

11 (e) The department shall:

12 (1) create a work group to provide recommendations
13 regarding the development of the concept paper and waiver required
14 by Subdivision (1) that includes the following members:

15 (A) representatives of state agencies that
16 provide services to women, pregnant women, and children;

17 (B) representatives of the managed care
18 organizations involved in providing medical assistance under the
19 pilot program;

20 (C) outreach providers that contract with the
21 medical assistance program; and

22 (D) representatives from other entities as
23 determined by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
24 Service Commission.

25 (f) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human
26 Services Commission may adopt rules to implement this section.

27 (g) Not later than December 1, 2010, the department shall

1 submit a report to the legislature regarding the department's
2 progress in developing the concept paper and waiver for
3 establishing and operating the pilot program.

4 (h) This section expires September 1, 2011.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.