

By: Shelton

H.B. No. 1295

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a pilot project to increase enrollee access to primary  
3 care services and simplify enrollment procedures under the child  
4 health plan program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 62, Health and Safety  
7 Code, is amended by adding Section 62.160 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 62.160. PILOT PROJECT TO INCREASE ENROLLEE ACCESS TO  
9 PRIMARY CARE SERVICES AND SIMPLIFY ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES. (a) In  
10 this section:

11 (1) "CPT code" means the number assigned to identify a  
12 specific health care procedure performed by a health care provider  
13 under the American Medical Association's "Current Procedural  
14 Terminology 2011 Professional Edition" or a subsequent edition of  
15 that publication adopted by the executive commissioner of the  
16 Health and Human Services Commission by rule.

17 (2) "Lower-cost medical setting" means a facility,  
18 clinic, center, office, or other setting primarily used to provide  
19 primary care services.

20 (3) "Primary care services" means health services  
21 generally provided through a general, family, internal medicine, or  
22 pediatrics practice. The term does not include services provided  
23 through a hospital emergency room or surgical services.

24 (4) "Service area" means the geographical area

1 determined by the commission that is coterminous with one or more  
2 Medicaid service areas and in which the pilot project is  
3 established.

4 (b) The commission shall establish a two-year pilot project  
5 in one or more Medicaid service areas that is designed to:

6 (1) increase child health plan enrollee access to  
7 primary care services; and

8 (2) simplify child health plan enrollment procedures.

9 (c) In establishing the pilot project under this section,  
10 the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services  
11 Commission shall:

12 (1) for each service area, establish health care  
13 provider reimbursement rates for primary care services provided in  
14 lower-cost medical settings that are comparable to the federal  
15 Medicare program rates for the same or similar services;

16 (2) identify CPT codes that represent primary care  
17 services for purposes of Subdivision (1);

18 (3) prescribe and use an alternative application for  
19 child health plan coverage that is written on a sixth-grade reading  
20 comprehension level; and

21 (4) require any enrollment services provider in a  
22 service area to reduce application processing delays and procedural  
23 denials and increase renewal rates.

24 (d) An individual who resides in the service area and who is  
25 determined eligible for coverage under the child health plan  
26 remains eligible for benefits until the expiration of the period  
27 provided by Section 62.102(a), subject to Section 62.102(b).

1       (e) The commission shall provide at least one point of  
2 service contact in each county in the service area where trained  
3 personnel are available to personally assist interested  
4 individuals who reside in the service area with the application  
5 form and procedures for child health plan coverage.

6       (f) The commission may enroll an individual in the child  
7 health plan program under the pilot project established under this  
8 section during only the first year of the project.

9       (g) Not later than January 1, 2013, the commission shall  
10 submit an initial report to the governor, the lieutenant governor,  
11 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding  
12 officers of the standing committees of the senate and house of  
13 representatives having primary jurisdiction over the child health  
14 plan program. The report must evaluate the operation of the pilot  
15 project and make recommendations regarding the continuation or  
16 expansion of the pilot project. The report must:

17               (1) state whether:

18                       (A) a higher percentage of eligible individuals  
19 in the service area enrolled in the child health plan as a result of  
20 the pilot project, as compared to percentages in other areas;

21                       (B) a higher percentage of health plan providers  
22 in the service area participated in the child health plan as a  
23 result of the pilot project, as compared to percentages in other  
24 areas; and

25                       (C) the enrollment changes implemented under the  
26 pilot project:

27                               (i) reduced application processing delays

1 and procedural denials; and

2 (ii) affected reenrollment rates; and

3 (2) include recommendations for the statewide  
4 implementation of successful pilot project strategies.

5 (h) The commission shall submit a final report regarding the  
6 results of the pilot project in the manner prescribed by Subsection  
7 (g) not later than the 60th day after the date the pilot project  
8 terminates. The report must contain the information required by  
9 Subsection (g).

10 (i) The executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
11 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement this  
12 section.

13 (j) This section expires January 1, 2015.

14 SECTION 2. Subject to Section 3 of this Act, not later than  
15 October 1, 2011, the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
16 establish the pilot project required under Section 62.160, Health  
17 and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

18 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
19 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
20 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
21 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
22 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
23 waiver or authorization is granted.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.