

By: Zerwas

H.B. No. 1644

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to health benefit plan coverage for certain tests for the early detection of cardiovascular disease in certain children.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 1376.003, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1376.003. MINIMUM COVERAGE REQUIRED: CERTAIN ADULTS.

SECTION 2. Chapter 1376, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1376.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 1376.004. MINIMUM COVERAGE REQUIRED: CERTAIN CHILDREN. (a) A health benefit plan that provides coverage for screening medical procedures must provide the minimum coverage required by this section to each covered individual who is older than 10 years of age and younger than 18 years of age and who:

(1) is a student at a middle school in Texas; or

(2) has not been diagnosed with heart disease and has not undergone an electrocardiogram or echocardiogram within the past two years.

(b) The minimum coverage required to be provided under this section is coverage of up to \$150 for the following series of examinations once every five years, performed by a physician and a laboratory certified by a national organization recognized by the commissioner by rule for the purposes of this section, and intended to detect asymptomatic underlying congenital cardiovascular

1 conditions that are associated with sudden cardiac arrest in  
2 children, including abnormal structure or function of the heart,  
3 the arteries, or the electrical pathways in the heart:

4 (1) history documenting personal or family history  
5 associated with sudden cardiac arrest;

6 (2) focused cardiovascular physical examination for  
7 clues to underlying conditions associated with sudden cardiac  
8 arrest, such as abnormal murmurs and body habitus;

9 (3) electrocardiogram measuring cardiac electrical  
10 activity and for the detection of those conditions associated with  
11 sudden cardiac arrest; and

12 (4) limited five-minute echocardiography to detect  
13 those structural cardiovascular conditions associated with sudden  
14 cardiac arrest in children.

15 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
16 to a health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed  
17 on or after January 1, 2012. A health benefit plan delivered,  
18 issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2012, is governed  
19 by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this  
20 Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.