

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 571

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to efficiencies and cost-savings in the health and human
3 services agencies and other related regulatory agencies.

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

5 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, the
6 legislature, in its discretion, may determine the amount of each
7 appropriation of state funds. The amounts required by statute for
8 entities that receive state funds under the General Appropriations
9 Act, 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, may be reduced or
10 eliminated in order to achieve a balanced budget.

11 SECTION 2. All health and human services agencies shall
12 identify efficiencies and reduce expenditures by:

13 (1) Eliminating or modifying programs not funded or
14 funded at a reduced level through Article II of the General
15 Appropriations Act;

16 (2) Reviewing, updating, and modifying rules to
17 streamline functions while preserving care for consumers;

18 (3) Consolidating administrative and service
19 functions where applicable;

20 (4) Evaluating the sufficiency of existing fees to
21 cover costs associated with administering all applicable programs;

22 (5) Maximizing co-sharing, including co-payments, in
23 all programs;

24 (6) Expanding billing coordination to all programs;

- 1 (7) Renegotiating more efficient contracts;
- 2 (8) Evaluating regulatory requirements as they relate
- 3 to available resources;
- 4 (9) Requesting any waiver or authorization from a
- 5 federal agency determined to be necessary for implementation of any
- 6 initiative aimed at improving efficiency and reducing
- 7 expenditures;
- 8 (10) Increasing access to preventive primary care;
- 9 (11) Evaluating the state medical assistance and
- 10 children and child health plan programs; and
- 11 (12) Implementing additional initiatives identified
- 12 by the health and human services agencies.

13 SECTION 3. The Health and Human Services Commission shall

14 identify efficiencies and reduce expenditures by:

- 15 (1) Streamlining eligibility determination processes;
- 16 (2) Evaluating the elimination of Temporary
- 17 Assistance for Needy Families exemptions not required by federal
- 18 law; and
- 19 (3) Implementing additional initiatives identified by
- 20 the Health and Human Services Commission.

21 SECTION 4. The Department of Aging and Disability Services

22 shall identify efficiencies and reduce expenditures by:

- 23 (1) Evaluating the current forensic commitment
- 24 process to ensure that alleged offenders with an intellectual
- 25 disability are being served in the most appropriate and
- 26 cost-effective setting;
- 27 (2) Ensuring that clients are being served in the most

1 cost-effective Section 1915(c) waiver program appropriate for
2 their needs;

3 (3) Streamlining the administration and delivery of
4 services through Section 1915(c) waiver programs;

5 (4) Performing utilization management and review
6 activities for all community entitlement and Section 1915(c) waiver
7 programs;

8 (5) Increasing community based long term care service
9 delivery options while containing costs;

10 (6) Requiring clients of Section 1915(c) waiver
11 programs to access attendant services through community based
12 entitlement programs wherever possible; and

13 (7) Implementing additional initiatives identified by
14 the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

15 SECTION 5. The Department of Family and Protective Services
16 shall identify efficiencies and reduce expenditures by:

17 (1) Maximizing use of programs at the Department of
18 State Health Services to provide mental health and substance abuse
19 services that are purchased through the child protective services
20 program and adult protective services program;

21 (2) Creating efficiencies in child care regulation;

22 (3) Redesigning the foster care system with the goal
23 of improving outcomes for children and families; and

24 (4) Implementing additional initiatives identified by
25 the Department of Family and Protective Services.

26 SECTION 6. The Department of State Health Services shall
27 identify efficiencies and reduce expenditures by:

1 (1) Evaluating the current forensic commitment
2 process to ensure that alleged offenders with a mental illness are
3 being served in the most appropriate and cost-effective setting;

4 (2) Partnering with local health departments to
5 streamline public health efforts;

6 (3) Privatizing a state hospital;

7 (4) Utilizing residential units in state hospitals to
8 provide cost-effective care and to maintain bed capacity;

9 (5) Requiring hospitals, which accept the state
10 medical assistance program, to charge state mental health hospitals
11 no more than the state medical assistance program fee for service
12 rate;

13 (6) Expanding cost-effective models of care for mental
14 illness;

15 (7) Optimizing federal matching funds for all state
16 and local funding streams, including Trauma Funds;

17 (8) Managing expenditures for drugs provided through
18 the state mental health hospitals and community care settings; and

19 (9) Implementing additional initiatives identified by
20 the Department of State Health Services.

21 SECTION 7. The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative
22 Services shall identify efficiencies and reduce expenditures by:

23 (1) Evaluating the feasibility and cost-effectiveness
24 of providing services to clients in the early childhood
25 intervention program through the state medical assistance and child
26 health plan programs; and

27 (2) Implementing additional initiatives identified by

1 the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

2 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.