

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1424

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the inclusion of optometrists, therapeutic
3 optometrists, and ophthalmologists in the health care provider
4 networks of certain Medicaid managed care organizations.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 533, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 533.0065 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 533.0065. EYE HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS. Subject
9 to Section 32.047, Human Resources Code, but notwithstanding any
10 other law, if the commission determines that recipient access to
11 optometrists, therapeutic optometrists, and ophthalmologists under
12 any Medicaid managed care model or arrangement in a region is not
13 adequate, the commission shall require that each managed care
14 organization that contracts with the commission to provide health
15 care services to recipients in that region under the model or
16 arrangement include in the organization's provider network each
17 optometrist, therapeutic optometrist, and ophthalmologist in the
18 region who:

19 (1) agrees to comply with the terms and conditions of
20 the organization;

21 (2) agrees to accept the prevailing provider contract
22 rate of the organization;

23 (3) agrees to abide by the standards of care required
24 by the organization; and

1 (4) has the credentials required by the organization.

2 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
3 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
4 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
5 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
6 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
7 waiver or authorization is granted.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.