

AN ACT

relating to a study on the benefits of prenatal surgical procedures to treat birth defects.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:

(1) "Birth defect" has the meaning assigned by Section 87.001, Health and Safety Code.

(2) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.

(b) The commission shall conduct a study to evaluate the benefits of prenatal surgical procedures to treat birth defects.

The procedures studied must include:

- (1) fetoscopic placental laser ablation;
- (2) maternal-fetal surgery; and
- (3) any other type of prenatal surgical procedure that is or becomes the standard of practice for treating a birth defect.

(c) The study must analyze:

(1) the difference in average total cost to the Medicaid program, private health benefit plan coverage, and individuals and other payors between conducting a prenatal surgical procedure and a postnatal procedure to treat a birth defect, including any continuing treatments needed after either procedure; and

(2) any improvement in survival rates, long-term

1 outcomes, and quality of life for children with birth defects
2 following a prenatal surgical procedure as compared to a postnatal
3 procedure to treat a birth defect.

4 (d) Not later than December 1, 2016, the commission shall
5 submit a written report on the results of the study to the governor,
6 lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, House
7 Committee on Public Health, and Senate Committee on Health and
8 Human Services.

9 (e) This Act expires September 1, 2017.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 606 was passed by the House on April 29, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 606 was passed by the Senate on May 23, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor