

By: Collier

H.B. No. 977

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to expanding eligibility for medical assistance to certain persons under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and ensuring the provision of quality care under and the effectiveness of the medical assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Sec. 32.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

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

(2) "Executive commissioner" means the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission.

(3) "Medical assistance expansion group" means the category of persons who would not be eligible for medical assistance under the eligibility criteria in effect on December 31, 2015, but who are eligible for that assistance because of the requirement of Section 32.302(a).

(4) "Undocumented immigrant" means a person who:
(A) is not a citizen or other national of the United States; and

(B) is not lawfully authorized to be present in the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8

1 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.) or other federal law.

2 Sec. 32.302. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
3 UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. (a)
4 Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided in Subsection
5 (b) and Section 32.303, to the extent funds are appropriated to the
6 commission for that purpose, the commission shall provide medical
7 assistance to all persons who apply for that assistance and for whom
8 federal matching funds are available under the Patient Protection
9 and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. No. 111-148) as amended by the
10 Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Pub. L. No.
11 111-152) to provide that assistance.

12 (b) Nothing in this section authorizes the commission to
13 provide medical assistance to undocumented immigrants.

14 (c) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules regarding
15 the provision of medical assistance as required by this section.

16 Sec. 32.303. RESTRICTED ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
17 UPON CHANGES IN FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS. (a) Notwithstanding any
18 other law, if the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) by
19 which this state's expenditures under the medical assistance
20 program are matched with federal funds, and that applies with
21 respect to persons in the medical assistance expansion group, is
22 less than the percentage provided for in the Patient Protection and
23 Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. No. 111-148) as amended by the Health
24 Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Pub. L. No.
25 111-152), and excluding subsequent amendments:

26 (1) the commission shall alert the Legislative Budget
27 Board; and

1 (2) beginning on the first day of the month following
2 the month in which the new federal medical assistance percentage
3 (FMAP) becomes effective, the commission shall:

4 (A) cease providing medical assistance to
5 persons in the medical assistance expansion group; and

6 (B) reinstate the eligibility criteria for
7 medical assistance that existed on December 31, 2015.

8 (b) The executive commissioner shall adopt any rules
9 necessary to implement any changes in the provision of and
10 eligibility criteria for medical assistance required by this
11 section.

12 Sec. 32.304. FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
13 COST-SHARING OBLIGATIONS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE EXPANSION GROUP.
14 The executive commissioner shall seek a waiver or other appropriate
15 authorization from the appropriate federal agency to develop and
16 implement cost-sharing obligations for the medical assistance
17 expansion group. Cost-sharing obligations developed by the
18 commission under this section:

19 (1) must be designed to:

20 (A) incentivize persons in the medical
21 assistance expansion group to seek preventive or routine health
22 care services, rather than emergency health care services, when
23 possible and appropriate; and

24 (B) guarantee quality health care for persons in
25 the medical assistance expansion group;

26 (2) may include:

27 (A) copayments and deductibles; and

1 (B) modifications to the reimbursement
2 methodologies for services provided to persons in the medical
3 assistance expansion group; and

4 (3) may incorporate any other incentives or strategies
5 that the commission determines are necessary, including:

6 (A) expanded use of managed care;

7 (B) increased reliance on private individual or
8 employer-based health benefits coverage; and

9 (C) targeted benefits for chronic illnesses.

10 Sec. 32.305. ANNUAL REPORT ON EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR
11 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. Not later than December 1 of each year, the
12 commission shall report to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
13 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the standing
14 committees of the senate and the house of representatives having
15 primary jurisdiction over the medical assistance program on the
16 effects of expanding eligibility for medical assistance under
17 Section 32.302, including the effects on:

18 (1) the number of persons in this state who do not have
19 health benefits coverage;

20 (2) state health care costs, including costs relating
21 to programs funded with money appropriated out of the general
22 revenue fund;

23 (3) local health care costs; and

24 (4) charity care and uncompensated care costs for
25 hospitals.

26 SECTION 2. Section 32.302, Human Resources Code, as added
27 by this Act, applies only to an initial determination or

1 recertification of eligibility of a person for medical assistance
2 under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, made on or after January 1,
3 2016, regardless of the date the person applied for that
4 assistance.

5 SECTION 3. As soon as possible after the effective date of
6 this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
7 Services Commission shall take all necessary actions to expand
8 eligibility for medical assistance under Chapter 32, Human
9 Resources Code, beginning January 1, 2016, and in accordance with
10 Section 32.302, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act,
11 including:

12 (1) notifying appropriate federal agencies of that
13 expanded eligibility; and

14 (2) establishing work groups or consulting with
15 stakeholder groups.

16 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act
17 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
18 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
19 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
20 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
21 waiver or authorization is granted.

22 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.