

By: Burkett, Turner of Harris, Rose,
King of Taylor, Guillen

H.B. No. 1541

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to peer specialists, peer services, and the provision of those services under the medical assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0999 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0999. PEER SPECIALISTS. With input from peer specialists, state-approved organizations that certify peer specialists, and other relevant stakeholders, the commission shall develop and the executive commissioner shall adopt:

(1) rules that establish training requirements for peer specialists so that they are able to provide services to persons with mental illness and services to persons with substance use conditions;

(2) rules that establish certification and supervision requirements for peer specialists;

(3) rules that define the scope of services that peer specialists may provide;

(4) rules that distinguish peer services from other services that a person must hold a license to provide; and

(5) any other rules necessary to protect the health and safety of persons receiving peer services.

SECTION 2. Section 32.024, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsections (nn) and (oo) to read as follows:

1 (nn) The commission in its rules and standards governing the
2 scope of services provided under the medical assistance program
3 shall include peer services provided by certified peer specialists
4 to the extent permitted by federal law.

5 (oo) The commission shall establish a separate provider
6 type for peer specialists for purposes of enrollment as providers
7 of and reimbursement under the medical assistance program.

8 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
9 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
10 Services Commission shall adopt the rules required by Section
11 531.0999, Government Code, as added by this Act.

12 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date
13 of this Act, the Health and Human Services Commission shall
14 establish and implement a separate provider type for peer
15 specialists as required by Section 32.024(oo), Human Resources
16 Code, as added by this Act.

17 SECTION 5. If before implementing any provision of this Act
18 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
19 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
20 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
21 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
22 waiver or authorization is granted.

23 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.