

By: Laubenberg

H.B. No. 2082

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to developing a pilot program to provide telemedicine medical services to certain children.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.076 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.076. PILOT PROGRAM FOR TELEMEDICINE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC OR COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS. (a) In this section, "telemedicine medical service" means a health care service that is provided by a physician for purposes of patient assessment, diagnosis, consultation, or treatment, or for the transfer of medical data, and that requires the use of advanced telecommunications technology, other than telephone or facsimile technology, including:

(1) compressed digital interactive video, audio, or data transmission;

(2) clinical data transmission using computer imaging by way of still-image capture and store and forward; and

(3) other technology that facilitates access to health care services or medical specialty expertise.

(b) The department shall develop and implement a pilot program to:

(1) enable an eligible child described under Subsection (c) to receive medical assistance benefits for health

care services provided in the child's residence through
telemedicine medical services; and

(2) provide reimbursement to a pediatric
subspecialist who provides telemedicine medical services under
Subdivision (1).

(c) A child is eligible for inclusion in the pilot program
under this section if the child:

(1) is a recipient of medical assistance; and

(2) has been diagnosed with:

(A) an end-stage solid organ disease; or

(B) a condition that, as determined by department

rule, requires:

(i) mechanical ventilation;

(ii) the child to be technology-dependent;

or

(iii) the child to be treated by three or

more specialists.

(d) The pilot program must require that the health care
services provided through telemedicine medical services:

(1) are provided by a pediatric subspecialist who:

(A) has clinical privileges at a tertiary
pediatric health care system that is associated with an academic
medical center; and

(B) has previously treated the child in person;

and

(2) do not replace the health care services the child
is otherwise receiving.

1 (e) The department shall conduct the pilot program in:

2 (1) Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis Counties; and

3 (2) the Northeast Texas and Central Texas Medicaid
4 Rural Service Area Regions.

5 (f) Not later than January 1, 2019, the department shall
6 report to the legislature on the results of the pilot program. The
7 report must include:

8 (1) an evaluation of the clinical outcomes of the
9 pilot program, including the program's success in reducing expected
10 emergency department visits; and

11 (2) the program's impact on medical costs.

12 (g) The executive commissioner may adopt rules to implement
13 this section.

14 (h) This section expires January 1, 2019.

15 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
16 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
17 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
18 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
19 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
20 waiver or authorization is granted.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.