

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1744

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to funding for and a study of county health care services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.094 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.094. MAXIMIZATION OF COUNTY INDIGENT HEALTH CARE FUNDING. (a) If feasible and cost-effective, the commission shall apply for a modification of or amendment to the waiver under Chapter 537 as necessary to more efficiently leverage the use of county funds to maximize the receipt of federal Medicaid matching funds to provide counties in the state with additional funding to provide indigent health care under Chapter 61, Health and Safety Code.

(b) In pursuing the waiver modification or amendment required under this section, the commission shall:

(1) solicit broad-based input from interested persons; and

(2) employ the use of intergovernmental transfers and other procedures to maximize the receipt of federal Medicaid matching funds.

SECTION 2. (a) The Health and Human Services Commission shall conduct a study of county expenditures on uncompensated health care and investigate:

(1) the impact uncompensated health care costs have on county budgets;

1 (2) local and innovative methods to reduce barriers in
2 health care delivery and increase access to health care; and

3 (3) the community benefit of health care services
4 provided under health care funding districts established under
5 Chapter 288, Health and Safety Code.

6 (b) Not later than December 1, 2016, the executive
7 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
8 prepare and deliver a report to the governor, lieutenant governor,
9 speaker of the house of representatives, and presiding officer of
10 each standing committee of the senate and house of representatives
11 having primary jurisdiction over matters relating to health and
12 human services. The report must contain:

13 (1) a summary of the study conducted under this
14 section; and

15 (2) the recommendations of the Health and Human
16 Services Commission based on the results of the study, including
17 recommendations of any legislation that is needed to implement the
18 recommendations.

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