

By: Hall

S.B. No. 1979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the study of the fiscal impact on local governments in  
3 Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro and Rockwall Counties of  
4 restructuring the NorthSTAR behavioral health system and the  
5 effective implementation the Sunset Commission Health and Human  
6 Services Commission Issue 9 recommendation.

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

8 SECTION 1. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
9 shall contract with a private entity approved by the North Texas  
10 Behavioral Health Authority through a majority vote of the  
11 authority's board of directors to undertake a comprehensive study  
12 of the potential impact on local governments and continuity of  
13 services in Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro and Rockwall  
14 Counties if the present behavioral health managed care structure,  
15 known as the NorthSTAR system, were to be dismantled in accordance  
16 with the recommendations in Issue 9 of the Health and Human Services  
17 Sunset Commission report.

18 SECTION 2. The scope of the study shall encompass but not be  
19 limited to

- 20 a) Defining the initial and expected impact on  
21 county and municipal budgets of any system that  
22 might replace the present configuration  
23 b) Defining the likelihood of and anticipated  
24 impact of recidivism resulting from increased

1 acuity in the indigent population presently  
2 served in the current system if care is disrupted

3 c) Defining the potential impact on network  
4 access

5 d) Defining the impact on integrated care

6 e) Defining the overall impact on quality of care  
7 outcomes

8 f) Defining the overall impact on the cost of  
9 care

10 g) Defining the initial and expected impact on  
11 local medical and surgical hospitals

12 SECTION 3. The findings of this study will be reported back  
13 to the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority and the Texas Health  
14 and Human Services Commission no later than June 30, 2016.

15 SECTION 4.

16 Collin County may exit NorthSTAR on or by October 1, 2016.

17 The present deadline for any other changes to the NorthSTAR  
18 model shall be changed to September 1, 2017. This  
19 modification shall be made in order to align the current  
20 contract cycle with the State of Texas fiscal year and allow  
21 the next Legislature the ability to make an appropriately  
22 informed deliberation on the future of public behavioral  
23 health care in Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro and  
24 Rockwall Counties.

25 SECTION 5. In the interim period the North Texas  
26 Behavioral Health Authority and the Texas Health and Human  
27 Services Commission shall solicit local stakeholder and

1 community input, and incorporating the findings of the impact  
2 study, shall work with the representatives designated by the  
3 affected county governments in the development of a system  
4 that incorporates

5 a) Local control and governance of the system by  
6 member counties through their designated voting  
7 representatives on the North Texas Behavioral  
8 Health Authority

9 b) True integration and coordination of mental  
10 health services, substance use disorder services,  
11 crisis services and physical health care

12 c) Equal care for non-Medicaid and Medicaid  
13 behavioral health populations

14 d) Open access

15 e) Braided local, state, and federal funding

16 f) Connectivity and coordination of coverage  
17 which preserves the principles of 'no wrong door'

18 g) Choice of providers

19 h) Waiver of Institute of Mental Disease (IMD)  
20 Exclusion

21 i) Separation of authority and provider  
22 functions

23 j) Serving all those meeting state criteria for  
24 behavioral health services in one system:

25 i. Income at or below 200% of Federal  
26 Poverty Level,

27 ii. All individuals meeting state

1 behavioral health clinical criteria;

2 iii. Individuals meeting state Medicaid  
3 requirements

4 k) Comprehensive evaluation and transparent  
5 publication of data

6 l) Status as a public local behavioral health  
7 authority entity eligible to put up non-federal  
8 dollars to match federal DSRIP funds

9 m) Provider payment plan and mechanisms to ensure  
10 a competitive provider market and an adequate  
11 network of providers capable of providing broad  
12 access to services;

13 n) Plan to ensure quality of services provided to  
14 clients and

15 o) Incentives of inclusion of local  
16 participation or match requirements

17 p) Option for Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman,  
18 Navarro or Rockwall Counties to continue in the  
19 plan or choose an alternate model and for counties  
20 contiguous to present or future NorthSTAR  
21 counties to join the model if the county  
22 governments of those contiguous counties should  
23 so choose

24 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately.