

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a health care pilot program for low-income individuals.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 65 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 65. HEALTH CARE PILOT PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS

Sec. 65.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of insurance.

(2) "Department" means the Texas Department of Insurance.

(3) "Pilot program" means the health care pilot program for low-income individuals established under this chapter.

Sec. 65.002. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM; RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. (a) The department shall establish and maintain in accordance with this chapter a pilot program for health benefits coverage for certain low-income individuals residing in an area designated by the department under Section 65.003.

(b) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter.

Sec. 65.003. DESIGNATION OF AREAS UNDER PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner by rule shall adopt standards in accordance with this subsection for the designation of an area to be served under

1 the pilot program. To be eligible for the pilot program:

2 (1) the percentage of adults in the area who do not
3 have coverage or benefits for health care services under a public or
4 private plan or program must be higher than the state average;

5 (2) the area must be designated as a health
6 professional shortage area by the United States Department of
7 Health and Human Services; and

8 (3) the area must be served on or before January 1,
9 2015, by one or more promotoras trained under Chapter 48.

10 (b) The department shall designate 10 areas in this state
11 for inclusion in the pilot program in accordance with the standards
12 under Subsection (a) and rules adopted under this chapter.

13 (c) The department may establish an application process to
14 allow an area to apply for inclusion in the pilot program.

15 Sec. 65.004. PROMOTORA DUTIES. A promotora serving an area
16 designated for the pilot program may assist the department in
17 coordination of health care under the pilot program, in monitoring
18 the compliance of individuals enrolled in the pilot program, and in
19 establishing an application process.

20 Sec. 65.005. INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to
21 receive services under the pilot program, an individual must have
22 an income of less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level and
23 be a parent of a child currently enrolled in the state health plan
24 or health benefits plan for children under Chapter 62 or 63 or the
25 state Medicaid program operated under Chapter 32, Human Resources
26 Code.

27 Sec. 65.006. HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER PILOT PROGRAM. The

1 commissioner by rule shall develop the health benefits coverage
2 under the pilot program, including the benefits offered under the
3 pilot program and the method of providing benefits.

4 Sec. 65.007. FUNDING. Notwithstanding Section 6(e)(2),
5 Chapter 615 (S.B. 1367), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular
6 Session, 2013, the department shall fund the pilot program with
7 available funds transferred to the department under that Act. The
8 commissioner may adopt rules necessary to facilitate the funding of
9 the pilot program under this section.

10 Sec. 65.008. REPORT. (a) The department shall contract
11 with an independent third party to evaluate the pilot program and
12 develop a report under this section.

13 (b) Not later than December 1, 2016, the third party
14 contracting with the department under Subsection (a) shall
15 distribute a report that evaluates the pilot program to the
16 governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
17 representatives, and chairs of the standing committees of the
18 senate and house of representatives with primary jurisdiction
19 regarding health care or insurance.

20 Sec. 65.009. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The commissioner shall
21 appoint an advisory committee composed of five members to advise
22 the department on the implementation of this chapter. The
23 committee must include:

24 (1) two individuals eligible to obtain coverage under
25 the pilot program;

26 (2) a representative of the insurance industry;

27 (3) a representative of a university hospital system;

1 and

2 (4) a health care provider providing services in an
3 area included in the pilot program.

4 Sec. 65.010. EXPIRATION OF CHAPTER. This chapter expires
5 August 31, 2019.

6 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2016, the Texas
7 Department of Insurance shall establish the indigent health care
8 pilot program described by Chapter 65, Health and Safety Code, as
9 added by this Act.

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