

By: Moody

H.B. No. 3317

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of counseling services by certain providers under Medicaid and reimbursement for those services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 32.027, Human Resources Code, is amended by amending Subsection (l) and adding Subsection (m) to read as follows:

(l) Subject to appropriations, the commission shall assure that a recipient of medical assistance under this chapter may select a licensed psychologist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, as defined by Section 502.002, Occupations Code, or a licensed professional counselor, as defined by Section 503.002, Occupations Code, ~~[or a licensed master social worker, as defined by Section 505.002, Occupations Code,]~~ to perform any health care service or procedure covered under the medical assistance program if the selected person is authorized by law to perform the service or procedure. This subsection shall be liberally construed.

(m) The commission shall assure that a recipient of medical assistance under this chapter may select the following to perform any health care service or procedure covered under the medical assistance program if the selected person is authorized by law to perform the service or procedure:

(1) a licensed master social worker, as defined by Section 505.002, Occupations Code, who is actively pursuing the

1 education and training required to be licensed as a licensed
2 clinical social worker, as defined by that section; or

3 (2) a licensed professional counselor intern who is
4 working toward fulfilling the supervised practice requirements to
5 be licensed as a licensed professional counselor, as defined by
6 Section 503.002, Occupations Code.

7 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code,
8 is amended by adding Section 32.079 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 32.079. REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN COUNSELING
10 SERVICES. The commission shall provide reimbursement under the
11 medical assistance program to a provider described by Section
12 32.027(m) who is selected by a recipient of medical assistance and
13 who provides counseling services covered under the medical
14 assistance program that the provider is authorized by law to
15 perform. The commission shall ensure that the provider is
16 reimbursed at a rate equal to 70 percent of the reimbursement rate
17 established for a licensed psychiatrist or licensed psychologist
18 for providing similar services.

19 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
20 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
21 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
22 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
23 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
24 waiver or authorization is granted.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.