

By: Price

H.B. No. 3541

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to requirements for Medicaid managed care organizations
3 that provide behavioral health services through a third party or
4 subsidiary.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 533, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 533.002553 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 533.002553. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED
9 THROUGH THIRD PARTY OR SUBSIDIARY. (a) In this section,
10 "behavioral health services" has the meaning assigned by Section
11 533.00255.

12 (b) For a managed care organization that contracts with the
13 commission under this chapter and that provides behavioral health
14 services through a contract with a third party or an arrangement
15 with a subsidiary of the managed care organization, the commission
16 shall:

17 (1) require the effective sharing and integration of
18 care coordination, service authorization, and utilization
19 management data between the managed care organization and the third
20 party or subsidiary;

21 (2) encourage, to the extent feasible, the collocation
22 of physical health and behavioral health care coordination staff;

23 (3) require warm call transfers between physical
24 health and behavioral health care coordination staff;

1 (4) require the managed care organization and the
2 third party or subsidiary to implement joint rounds for physical
3 health and behavioral health services providers or some other
4 effective means for sharing clinical information; and

5 (5) ensure that the managed care organization makes
6 available to recipients enrolled in a managed care plan issued by
7 the managed care organization a seamless provider portal for both
8 physical health and behavioral health services providers.

9 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
10 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
11 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
12 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
13 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
14 waiver or authorization is granted.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.