

By: Walle

H.B. No. 3967

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a task force to study the financing
3 options for early childhood intervention services.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "executive commissioner"
6 means the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services
7 Commission.

8 (b) The executive commissioner shall establish a task force
9 to study and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of
10 requiring:

11 (1) private group health benefit plan coverage for
12 early childhood intervention services, including speech therapy
13 services, regardless of whether the services are necessitated by an
14 illness, injury, or cognitive defect; and

15 (2) private group health benefit plan issuers to
16 include providers of early childhood intervention services in their
17 provider networks.

18 (c) Subject to this subsection, the executive commissioner
19 shall determine the size and composition of the task force. The
20 executive commissioner shall appoint the members of the task force,
21 which must include representatives of:

22 (1) early childhood intervention services providers;
23 (2) advocacy groups that provide policy advocacy for
24 recipients of early childhood intervention services;

- 1 (3) the Health and Human Services Commission;
2 (4) the Texas Department of Insurance; and
3 (5) private group health benefit plan issuers.

4 (d) Not later than December 1, 2018, the task force shall
5 submit a report to the appropriate standing committees of the
6 legislature that includes:

- 7 (1) the results of the task force's study;
8 (2) recommendations regarding the feasibility of the
9 requirements described by Subsection (b) of this section; and
10 (3) legislation necessary to implement the
11 recommendations made under Subdivision (2) of this subsection.

12 (e) This section expires and the task force is abolished
13 January 1, 2019.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.