

AN ACT

relating to the participation of an advanced practice registered nurse as a primary care or network provider for certain governmental and other health benefit plans.

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

SECTION 1. Section 533.005, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) For purposes of Subsection (a)(13), an advanced practice registered nurse may be included as a primary care provider in a managed care organization's provider network regardless of whether the physician supervising the advanced practice registered nurse is in the provider network. This subsection may not be construed as authorizing a managed care organization to supervise or control the practice of medicine as prohibited by Subtitle B, Title 3, Occupations Code.

SECTION 2. Section 62.1551, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 62.1551. INCLUSION OF CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN PROVIDER NETWORKS. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, including Sections 843.312 and 1301.052, Insurance Code, the executive commissioner shall adopt rules to require a managed care organization or other entity to ensure that advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants are available as primary care providers in the organization's or entity's provider network.

1 The rules must require advanced practice registered nurses and  
2 physician assistants to be treated in the same manner as primary  
3 care physicians with regard to:

4 (1) selection and assignment as primary care  
5 providers;

6 (2) inclusion as primary care providers in the  
7 provider network; and

8 (3) inclusion as primary care providers in any  
9 provider network directory maintained by the organization or  
10 entity.

11 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a), an advanced practice  
12 registered nurse may be included as a primary care provider in a  
13 managed care organization's or entity's provider network regardless  
14 of whether the physician supervising the advanced practice  
15 registered nurse is in the provider network.

16 (c) This section may not be construed as authorizing a  
17 managed care organization or other entity to supervise or control  
18 the practice of medicine as prohibited by Subtitle B, Title 3,  
19 Occupations Code.

20 SECTION 3. Section 32.024(gg), Human Resources Code, is  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (gg) Notwithstanding any other law, including Sections  
23 843.312 and 1301.052, Insurance Code, the commission shall ensure  
24 that advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants  
25 may be selected by and assigned to recipients of medical assistance  
26 as the primary care providers of those recipients regardless of  
27 whether the physician supervising the advanced practice registered

1 nurse is included in any directory of providers of medical  
2 assistance maintained by the commission. This subsection may not  
3 be construed as authorizing the commission to supervise or control  
4 the practice of medicine as prohibited by Subtitle B, Title 3,  
5 Occupations Code. The commission must require that advanced  
6 practice registered nurses and physician assistants be treated in  
7 the same manner as primary care physicians with regard to:

8 (1) selection and assignment as primary care  
9 providers; and

10 (2) inclusion as primary care providers in any  
11 directory of providers of medical assistance maintained by the  
12 commission.

13 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
14 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
15 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
16 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
17 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
18 waiver or authorization is granted.

19 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 654 passed the Senate on May 8, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 654 passed the House on May 22, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, one present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor