

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 1554

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a Medicaid Block Grant Waiver Legislative Oversight Committee.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 537, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 537. MEDICAID BLOCK GRANT AND REFORM WAIVERS [~~WAIVER~~]

SECTION 2. Chapter 537, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 537.001 to read as follows:

Sec. 537.001. MEDICAID BLOCK GRANT WAIVER LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. (a) In this section:

(1) "Committee" means the Medicaid Block Grant Waiver Legislative Oversight Committee created under this section.

(2) "Medicaid block grant funding system" means a system of funding Medicaid that provides for a set total amount of federal financial participation regardless of program enrollment.

(b) If the federal government authorizes states to opt to receive the federal share of money for the operation of Medicaid through a Medicaid block grant funding system or requires that states receive that money through a Medicaid block grant funding system, the Medicaid Block Grant Waiver Legislative Oversight Committee is created as provided by this section to facilitate waiver efforts with respect to the system by which Medicaid is funded in this state.

1 (c) The committee is composed of eight members, as follows:

2 (1) four members of the senate, appointed by the
3 lieutenant governor; and

4 (2) four members of the house of representatives,
5 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

6 (d) A member of the committee serves at the pleasure of the
7 appointing official.

8 (e) The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
9 representatives shall each designate a co-chair from among the
10 committee members.

11 (f) A member of the committee may not receive compensation
12 for serving on the committee but is entitled to reimbursement for
13 travel expenses incurred by the member while conducting the
14 business of the committee as provided by the General Appropriations
15 Act.

16 (g) The committee shall:

17 (1) facilitate the design and development of a
18 Medicaid block grant waiver;

19 (2) facilitate a smooth transition from existing
20 Medicaid payment systems and benefit designs to a new model of
21 Medicaid enabled by the waiver described by Subdivision (1) of this
22 subsection;

23 (3) meet at the call of the presiding officer; and

24 (4) research, take public testimony, and issue reports
25 requested by the lieutenant governor or speaker of the house of
26 representatives.

27 (h) The committee may request reports and other information

1 from the commission.

2 (i) The committee shall use existing staff of the senate,
3 the house of representatives, and the Texas Legislative Council to
4 assist the committee in performing its duties under this section.

5 (j) Chapter 551 applies to the committee.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.