By: Hancock   S.B. No. 2211

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2   relating to a demonstration program for real-time processing of

3   workers' compensation authorizations of payment for medical

4   services and medical bills.

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

6   SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 412, Labor Code, is

7   amended by adding Section 412.0129 to read as follows:

8   Sec. 412.0129. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL

9   SERVICES AND MEDICAL BILLING REAL-TIME PROCESSING DEMONSTRATION

10   PROGRAM.   (a) The office shall develop and implement a

11   demonstration program for processing workers' compensation

12   authorizations of payment for medical services and medical bills in

13   real-time.

14   (b) The demonstration program described by Subsection (a)

15   must include:

16   (1) a secure single platform, web-based portal for use

17   by the office, state agencies, injured employees, and health care

18   providers;

19   (2) the ability to collect, input, and transmit

20   administrative and clinical data, including:

21   (A) patient information;

22   (B) provider contracts;

23   (C) treatment guidelines; and

24   (D) other information the office considers

1 necessary for processing authorizations and medical bills;

2   (3) an automated process to streamline requests for

3 authorizations of payment for medical services and peer reviews at

4 the point of care; and

5   (4) return to work best practices for workers'

6 compensation claims, including complex case management.

7   (c) The office shall work with the workers' compensation

8 research and evaluation group to identify and adopt measures for

9 evaluating the demonstration program.

10   (d) The evaluation period for the demonstration program

11 shall end on June 30, 2020.

12   (e) Not later than December 31, 2020, the office shall

13 provide to the board a report that:

14   (1) evaluates the program, including any effects of

15 the program on administrative cost savings; and

16   (2) recommends whether to use the process implemented

17 under the program on a permanent basis.

18   (f) If the report of the demonstration program under

19 Subsection (e) indicates that administrative cost savings are

20 achieved by the process implemented under the program, the board

21 may adopt and use the process on a permanent basis.

22   (g) This section expires September 1, 2021.

23   SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2018, the State

24 Office of Risk Management shall begin developing the demonstration

25 program under Section 412.0129, Labor Code, as added by this Act.

26   (b) Not later than January 1, 2019, the State Office of Risk

27 Management shall fully implement the demonstration program

1 developed under Section 412.0129, Labor Code, as added by this Act.

2   SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

6 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.