86R22298 JG-D

By:  Deshotel, Davis of Harris H.B. No. 1647

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1647:

By:  Noble C.S.H.B. No. 1647

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of a dental services benefit under Medicaid for adult recipients with disabilities and a pilot program to provide those services.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.0545 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.0545.  DENTAL SERVICES BENEFIT FOR CERTAIN RECIPIENTS; PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall develop a dental services benefit under the medical assistance program for adult recipients with disabilities. The dental services benefit must be:

(1)  cost-effective and designed to achieve cost savings;

(2)  designed to reduce emergency room visits by or hospitalizations of adult recipients with disabilities resulting from a lack of access to dental services; and

(3)  designed to meet the individual needs of adult recipients with disabilities.

(b)  In developing the dental services benefit under this section, the commission shall evaluate dental services benefits provided under medical assistance waiver programs authorized under Section 1115 of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1315) and dental services benefits provided as a value-added service under the Medicaid managed care delivery model.

(c)  Not later than September 1, 2020, the commission shall prepare and submit to the legislature a written report on the dental services benefit developed under this section.

(d)  The commission may establish and operate a pilot program to provide the dental services benefit developed under this section in one or more geographic areas of this state. The pilot program must conclude not later than September 1, 2022. If the commission establishes the pilot program under this section, the commission shall prepare and submit to the legislature a written report that summarizes the results of the pilot program not later than December 1, 2022.

(e)  This section expires September 1, 2023.

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

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.