By:  Fierro (Senate Sponsor - Rodríguez) H.B. No. 4559

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2019; May 6, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; May 17, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 17, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Whitmire        X

Huffman                   X

Buckingham      X

Flores          X

Hughes          X

Miles           X

Perry           X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to a county jail prisoner's health benefits coverage information for mental health service providers.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 511, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 511.0098 to read as follows:

Sec. 511.0098.  PRISONER HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE INFORMATION; PAYMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. (a) The commission shall adopt procedures by which a local mental health authority or other mental health services provider providing services to a prisoner in a county jail under a contract with the county may collect the following from a prisoner who receives those services and is covered by health insurance or other health benefits coverage:

(1)  the name of the policyholder or group contract holder;

(2)  the number of the policy or evidence of coverage;

(3)  a copy of the health coverage membership card, if available; and

(4)  any other information necessary for the prisoner to obtain benefits under the coverage.

(b)  A local mental health authority or other mental health services provider who provides mental health services to a prisoner under a contract with a county may arrange for the issuer of the health insurance policy or other health benefits coverage to pay for those services.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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