

By: Cortez, Guillen

H.B. No. 1782

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a plan to increase the use of telemedicine medical services and telehealth services in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.021611 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.021611. ACTION PLAN TO EXPAND TELEMEDICINE MEDICAL SERVICES AND TELEHEALTH SERVICES. (a) The commission shall develop and implement an action plan to:

(1) expand the use of and increase access to telemedicine medical services, telehealth services, and related mobile applications for those services by health care providers for the residents of this state; and

(2) increase the availability of critical medical care and health care services to residents in this state in areas determined by the commission to be medically underserved, including the border region and rural areas.

(b) In developing and implementing the action plan under Subsection (a), the commission shall:

(1) seek the assistance of the Texas Hospital Association, the Texas Medical Association, teaching hospitals, and the statewide health coordinating council; and

(2) consult with health care providers, advocacy groups, relevant federal agencies, and any other interested persons

1 the commission considers necessary to develop the action plan  
2 required by this section.

3 (c) The action plan developed under Subsection (a) must  
4 include:

5 (1) short-term and long-term plan recommendations,  
6 including policy initiatives and reforms necessary to implement the  
7 plan;

8 (2) statutory and administrative reforms necessary to  
9 implement the plan; and

10 (3) options for the funding necessary to implement the  
11 plan.

12 (d) The commission shall:

13 (1) not later than September 1, 2021:

14 (A) submit to the governor and the legislature  
15 the recommendations, the statutory and administrative reforms, and  
16 the funding options described in Subsection (c) and short-term and  
17 long-term plans to implement those recommendations, reforms, and  
18 options; and

19 (B) begin implementing the short-term plan;

20 (2) not later than September 1, 2023, fully implement  
21 the short-term plan;

22 (3) not later than September 1, 2029, fully implement  
23 the long-term plan; and

24 (4) include the short-term and long-term plans in the  
25 update of the strategic plan for health and human services under  
26 Section 531.022, Government Code.

27 (e) This section expires September 1, 2030.

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