

By: Davis of Harris

H.B. No. 1879

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the automatic enrollment of certain women in Medicaid and the Healthy Texas Women and CHIP perinatal programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 531.0997 and 531.09971 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0997. AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT OF CERTAIN WOMEN IN HEALTHY TEXAS WOMEN PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "Healthy Texas Women program" means a program operated by the commission that is substantially similar to the demonstration project operated under former Section 32.0248, Human Resources Code, and that is intended to expand access to preventive health and family planning services for women in this state.

(b) Subject to the eligibility requirements of the Healthy Texas Women program, the commission shall identify and automatically enroll in the program a woman who is a Medicaid recipient or enrollee in the child health plan program but who will lose eligibility for benefits under the applicable program because of the woman's age. The commission shall implement the automatic enrollment in a manner that:

(1) ensures a seamless transition in the provision of services between Medicaid or the child health plan program, as applicable, and the Healthy Texas Women program; and

1 (2) allows a woman to begin receiving services through
2 the Healthy Texas Women program on the first day the woman is no
3 longer eligible for Medicaid or the child health plan program, as
4 applicable.

5 (c) The commission shall, at the time a woman is
6 automatically enrolled under Subsection (b) in the Healthy Texas
7 Women program:

8 (1) provide to the woman written notice that:

9 (A) she has been automatically enrolled in the
10 program but may disenroll; and

11 (B) instructs the woman on how to disenroll from
12 the program; and

13 (2) provide to the woman information about the
14 program, including the services provided under the program.

15 (d) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary
16 to implement this section.

17 Sec. 531.09971. AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT OF CERTAIN WOMEN IN
18 MEDICAID OR CHIP PERINATAL PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

19 (1) "CHIP perinatal program" means the perinatal
20 program operated under the child health plan program established
21 under Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code.

22 (2) "Healthy Texas Women program" has the meaning
23 assigned by Section 531.0997.

24 (b) The commission shall identify and automatically enroll
25 in Medicaid or the CHIP perinatal program, as applicable, a woman
26 who:

27 (1) becomes pregnant while receiving services through

1 the Healthy Texas Women program; and

2 (2) is eligible for Medicaid or the CHIP perinatal
3 program.

4 (c) The commission shall implement the automatic enrollment
5 in a manner that:

6 (1) ensures a seamless transition in the provision of
7 services between the Healthy Texas Women program and Medicaid or
8 the CHIP perinatal program, as applicable; and

9 (2) allows a woman to begin receiving services through
10 Medicaid or the CHIP perinatal program, as applicable, on the first
11 day the woman is enrolled in the program.

12 (d) The commission shall, at the time a woman is
13 automatically enrolled under Subsection (b) in Medicaid or the CHIP
14 perinatal program, as applicable:

15 (1) provide to the woman written notice that:

16 (A) she has been automatically enrolled in the
17 applicable program but may disenroll; and

18 (B) instructs the woman on how to disenroll from
19 the program; and

20 (2) provide to the woman information about the
21 program, including the services provided under the program.

22 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary
23 to implement this section.

24 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a
25 woman who is a recipient of medical assistance under Chapter 32,
26 Human Resources Code, benefits through the child health plan
27 program under Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code, or services

1 through the Healthy Texas Women program, on or after the effective
2 date of this Act, regardless of the date on which eligibility for
3 medical assistance, the child health plan program, or the Healthy
4 Texas Women program was determined.

5 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
6 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization, including
7 a state plan amendment, from a federal agency is necessary for
8 implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the
9 provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay
10 implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is
11 granted.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.