

By: Shine

H.B. No. 2919

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a demonstration program at the State Office of Risk Management for real-time processing of workers' compensation authorizations of payment for medical services and medical bills.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 412, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 412.0129 to read as follows:

Sec. 412.0129. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL BILLS REAL-TIME PROCESSING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM. (a) The office may develop and implement a demonstration program for processing workers' compensation authorizations of payment for medical services and medical bills in real time if the office determines that the program would be cost-effective.

(b) The demonstration program described by Subsection (a) must include:

(1) a secure single platform, Internet-based portal for use by the office, state agencies, injured employees, and health care providers;

(2) the ability to collect, input, and transmit administrative and clinical data, including:

(A) patient information;

(B) provider contracts;

(C) treatment guidelines; and

(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 workers' compensation research and evaluation group
8 shall assist the office in identifying and adopting measures for
9 evaluating the demonstration program.

10 (d) The evaluation period for the demonstration program
11 shall end on June 30, 2022.

12 (e) If the office implements a demonstration program under
13 this section, not later than December 31, 2022, the office shall
14 provide to the board a report that:

15 (1) evaluates the program, including any effects of
16 the program on administrative cost savings; and

17 (2) recommends whether to use the process implemented
18 under the program on a permanent basis.

19 (f) If the report of the demonstration program under
20 Subsection (e) indicates that administrative cost savings are
21 achieved by the process implemented under the program, the board
22 may adopt and use the process on a permanent basis.

23 (g) This section expires September 1, 2023.

24 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2020, the State Office
25 of Risk Management shall make a determination as to whether the
26 demonstration program described by Section 412.0129, Labor Code, as
27 added by this Act, would be cost-effective. If the office

H.B. No. 2919

1 determines the program would be cost-effective and decides to
2 implement the program, the office shall fully implement the program
3 not later than January 1, 2021.

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