By: Turner of Tarrant H.B. No. 3041

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the renewal of a preauthorization for a medical or health care service.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 8, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Chapter 1222 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1222. PREAUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICAL OR HEALTH CARE SERVICE

Sec. 1222.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Health benefit plan" means a plan to which this chapter applies under Section 1222.0002.

(2) "Health benefit plan issuer" means an entity authorized under this code or another insurance law of this state that provides health insurance or health benefits in this state.

(3) "Preauthorization" has the meaning assigned by Section 1301.001.

Sec. 1222.0002. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. (a) This chapter applies only to a health benefit plan that provides benefits for medical or surgical expenses incurred as a result of a health condition, accident, or sickness, including an individual, group, blanket, or franchise insurance policy or insurance agreement, a group hospital service contract, or an individual or group evidence of coverage or similar coverage document that is issued by:

(1) an insurance company;

(2) a group hospital service corporation operating under Chapter 842;

(3) a health maintenance organization operating under Chapter 843;

(4) an approved nonprofit health corporation that holds a certificate of authority under Chapter 844;

(5) a multiple employer welfare arrangement that holds a certificate of authority under Chapter 846;

(6) a stipulated premium company operating under Chapter 884;

(7) a fraternal benefit society operating under Chapter 885;

(8) a Lloyd's plan operating under Chapter 941; or

(9) an exchange operating under Chapter 942.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, this chapter applies to:

(1) a small employer health benefit plan subject to Chapter 1501, including coverage provided through a health group cooperative under Subchapter B of that chapter;

(2) a standard health benefit plan issued under Chapter 1507;

(3) a basic coverage plan under Chapter 1551;

(4) a basic plan under Chapter 1575;

(5) a primary care coverage plan under Chapter 1579;

(6) a plan providing basic coverage under Chapter 1601;

(7) health benefits provided by or through a church benefits board under Subchapter I, Chapter 22, Business

Organizations Code;

(8) group health coverage made available by a school district in accordance with Section 22.004, Education Code;

(9) the state Medicaid program, including the Medicaid managed care program operated under Chapter 533, Government Code;

(10) the child health plan program under Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code;

(11) a regional or local health care program operated under Section 75.104, Health and Safety Code;

(12) a self-funded health benefit plan sponsored by a professional employer organization under Chapter 91, Labor Code;

(13) county employee group health benefits provided under Chapter 157, Local Government Code; and

(14) health and accident coverage provided by a risk pool created under Chapter 172, Local Government Code.

Sec. 1222.0003. PREAUTHORIZATION RENEWAL REQUEST. A health benefit plan issuer that requires preauthorization as a condition of payment for a medical or health care service shall provide a preauthorization renewal process that allows an enrollee to request renewal of an existing preauthorization at least 60 days before the date the preauthorization expires.

Sec. 1222.0004. DETERMINATION REQUIRED. If a health benefit plan issuer receives a preauthorization renewal request before the existing preauthorization expires, the health benefit plan issuer shall, if practicable, review the request and issue a determination indicating whether the medical or health care service is preauthorized before the existing preauthorization expires.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a health benefit plan that is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2020. A health benefit plan that is delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1, 2020, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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