

By: Sheffield

H.B. No. 3958

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to demonstration projects to coordinate eligibility renewal and eligibility recertification for certain children in the Medicaid and child health plan programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 62.1025 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.1025. ELIGIBILITY RENEWAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) The commission shall establish a demonstration project through the child health plan program to allow the commission to simultaneously renew the eligibility of each child residing in the same household who is eligible for enrollment in the program.

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to determine the scope of and eligibility for participating in the demonstration project.

(c) The commission shall, to the extent possible, operate the demonstration project established under this section in conjunction with the demonstration project established under Section 32.02614, Human Resources Code. The demonstration project may not increase the frequency with which:

(1) the eligibility of children participating in the demonstration project would otherwise be renewed; or

(2) those children's household incomes are reviewed under Section 62.102(b).

1        (d) Not later than December 1, 2022, the commission shall  
2 submit a report to the legislature regarding the commission's  
3 progress in establishing and operating the demonstration project  
4 and recommendations on continuing or expanding the demonstration  
5 project.

6        (e) This section expires September 1, 2023.

7        SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code,  
8 is amended by adding Section 32.02614 to read as follows:

9        Sec. 32.02614. ELIGIBILITY RECERTIFICATION DEMONSTRATION  
10 PROJECT. (a) In this section, "child health plan program" has the  
11 meaning assigned by Section 531.001, Government Code.

12        (b) The commission shall establish a demonstration project  
13 through the medical assistance program to allow the commission, to  
14 the greatest extent possible, to develop and test solutions to  
15 simultaneously:

16                (1) recertify and renew, as applicable, the  
17 eligibility of each child residing in the same household who is  
18 eligible for medical assistance under this chapter or for the child  
19 health plan program, including the eligibility of siblings when a  
20 child within the household reaches the age of one; and

21                (2) verify the household income of all persons  
22 described by Subdivision (1) in accordance with this section to  
23 determine eligibility.

24        (c) The demonstration project must include participation by  
25 one or more households in each of the following categories:

26                (1) a household with children who are eligible for  
27 medical assistance or the child health plan program, at least one of

1 whom is younger than the age of one;

2 (2) a household with children who are eligible for  
3 medical assistance or the child health plan program, at least some  
4 of whom are not siblings; and

5 (3) a household with at least one child who is eligible  
6 for medical assistance and at least one child who is eligible for  
7 the child health plan program.

8 (d) The commission shall simultaneously verify the  
9 household income of all children within the same household  
10 participating in the demonstration project not more frequently than  
11 twice during each 12-month period, with the first verification  
12 occurring before the sixth month following the earliest date that a  
13 child within the household was determined to be eligible for the  
14 medical assistance program, and the second verification occurring  
15 after that six-month period but before the annual recertification  
16 date.

17 (e) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary  
18 to determine the scope of and eligibility for participating in the  
19 demonstration project.

20 (f) The commission may establish the demonstration project  
21 in one or more geographic areas in this state and form partnerships  
22 with entities experienced in outreach, application assistance, and  
23 enrolling recipients in the medical assistance program, the child  
24 health plan program, and any other health benefits coverage.

25 (g) The commission shall, to the extent possible, operate  
26 the demonstration project established under this section in  
27 conjunction with the demonstration project established under

1 Section 62.1025, Health and Safety Code.

2 (h) Not later than December 1, 2022, the commission shall  
3 submit a report to the legislature regarding the commission's  
4 progress in establishing and operating the demonstration project  
5 and recommendations on continuing or expanding the demonstration  
6 project.

7 (i) This section expires September 1, 2023.

8 SECTION 3. Not later than September 1, 2020, the Health and  
9 Human Services Commission shall implement the eligibility renewal  
10 and eligibility recertification demonstration projects required by  
11 Section 62.1025, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, and  
12 Section 32.02614, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act.

13 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
14 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
15 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
16 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
17 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
18 waiver or authorization is granted.

19 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.