

By: Fierro

H.B. No. 4559

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to a county jail prisoner's health benefits coverage information for mental health service providers.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 511, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 511.0098 to read as follows:

Sec. 511.0098. PRISONER HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE INFORMATION; PAYMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. (a) The commission shall adopt procedures by which a local mental health authority or other mental health services provider providing services to a prisoner in a county jail under a contract with the county may collect the following from a prisoner who receives those services and is covered by health insurance or other health benefits coverage:

(1) the name of the policyholder or group contract holder;

(2) the number of the policy or evidence of coverage;

(3) a copy of the health coverage membership card, if available; and

(4) any other information necessary for the prisoner to obtain benefits under the coverage.

(b) A local mental health authority or other mental health services provider who provides mental health services to a prisoner under a contract with a county may arrange for the issuer of the

1 health insurance policy or other health benefits coverage to pay
2 for those services.

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