

By: Perry

S.B. No. 174

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain duties of a sheriff regarding a county jail prisoner's health benefits coverage information.

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 HEALTH CARE SERVICES. (a) The commission shall adopt procedures by which a sheriff may collect the following from a prisoner who 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) The commission by rule shall require a sheriff to collect the information and documentation described by Subsection (a) for any prisoner in the sheriff's jurisdiction who is confined in a county jail capable of confining 800 or more prisoners.

(c) A sheriff who arranges for health care services to be provided to a prisoner for whom the sheriff has obtained health

1 insurance or other health benefits coverage information under this
2 section may:

3 (1) provide the information to a health care provider
4 or health care facility providing the services to the prisoner; and

5 (2) arrange for the issuer of the health insurance
6 policy or other health benefits coverage to pay for the services.

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