

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1421

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to methods of notice from certain health benefit plan issuers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 843, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 843.212 to read as follows:

Sec. 843.212. NOTICE BY E-MAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE. (a) A health maintenance organization shall provide each enrollee the option to receive by e-mail or text message any notice required under this chapter or Chapter 1369 or by rule of the commissioner.

(b) A notice sent to an enrollee under this section must include an electronic link to a web page on a website maintained by the health maintenance organization. The web page must include the information required for the notice in the form prescribed by statute or by rule of the commissioner.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, Chapter 1369, or any other law, if an enrollee elects to receive notice by e-mail or text message under this section, the health maintenance organization is not required to mail to the enrollee a notice required by this chapter or Chapter 1369 or by rule of the commissioner.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 1301, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1301.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 1301.010. NOTICE BY E-MAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE. (a) An

1 insurer shall provide each insured the option to receive by e-mail
2 or text message any notice required under this chapter or Chapter
3 1369 or by rule of the commissioner.

4 (b) A notice sent to an insured under this section must
5 include an electronic link to a web page on a website maintained by
6 the insurer. The web page must include the information required for
7 the notice in the form prescribed by statute or by rule of the
8 commissioner.

9 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, Chapter
10 1369, or any other law, if an insured elects to receive notice by
11 e-mail or text message under this section, the insurer is not
12 required to mail to the insured a notice required by this chapter or
13 Chapter 1369 or by rule of the commissioner.

14 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only
15 to a health benefit plan that is delivered, issued for delivery, or
16 renewed on or after January 1, 2020.

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