

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1742

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to physician and health care provider directories for certain health benefit plans.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1451.501, Insurance Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivisions (1-a) and (1-b) to read as follows:

(1) "Facility" has the meaning assigned by Section 324.001, Health and Safety Code.

(1-a) "Facility-based physician" means a radiologist, anesthesiologist, pathologist, emergency department physician, neonatologist, or assistant surgeon:

(A) to whom a facility has granted clinical privileges; and

(B) who provides services to patients of the facility under those clinical privileges.

(1-b) "Health care provider" means a practitioner, institutional provider, or other person or organization that furnishes health care services and that is licensed or otherwise authorized to practice in this state. The term includes a pharmacist, pharmacy, hospital, nursing home, or other medical or health-related service facility that provides care for the sick or injured or other care. The term does not include a physician.

SECTION 2. Section 1451.504, Insurance Code, is amended by

1 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
2 follows:

3 (b) The directory must include the name, street address,
4 specialty, if any, and telephone number of each physician and
5 health care provider described by Subsection (a) and indicate
6 whether the physician or provider is accepting new patients.

7 (c) For each health care provider that is a facility
8 included in the directory under this section, the directory must:

9 (1) list under the facility name separate headings for
10 radiologists, anesthesiologists, pathologists, emergency
11 department physicians, neonatologists, and assistant surgeons;

12 (2) list under each heading described by Subdivision
13 (1) each facility-based physician described by Subsection (a)
14 practicing in the specialty corresponding with that heading;

15 (3) for the facility and each facility-based physician
16 described by Subdivision (2), clearly indicate each health benefit
17 plan issued by the issuer that may provide coverage for the services
18 provided by that facility or physician; and

19 (4) include the facility in a grid listing of all
20 facilities included in the directory with separate columns
21 indicating:

22 (A) the name of the facility;

23 (B) the municipality in which the facility is
24 located or county in which the facility is located if the facility
25 is in the unincorporated area of the county;

26 (C) for each specialty of facility-based
27 physician practicing at the facility, the name, street address, and

1 telephone number of any facility-based physician group described by
2 Subsection (a);

3 (D) each health benefit plan issued by the issuer
4 that may provide coverage for the services provided by the
5 facility; and

6 (E) each health benefit plan issued by the issuer
7 that may provide coverage for the services provided by each
8 facility-based physician group.

9 SECTION 3. Section 1451.505(c), Insurance Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 (c) The directory must be:

12 (1) electronically searchable by physician or health
13 care provider name, specialty, if any, and location; and

14 (2) publicly accessible without necessity of
15 providing a password, a user name, or personally identifiable
16 information.

17 SECTION 4. A health benefit plan issuer shall update the
18 issuer's website to conform with Subchapter K, Chapter 1451,
19 Insurance Code, as amended by this Act, not later than January 1,
20 2020.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.