

By: Miles

S.B. No. 1748

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program for providing services to certain children under the Medicaid medical transportation program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.024141 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.024141. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM SERVICES TO CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING PREGNANT MOTHERS. (a) The commission shall develop and implement a pilot program to enable an eligible child described by Subsection (b) to receive medical transportation program services and to provide reimbursement for those services in order to:

(1) increase access to prenatal and postpartum care;

(2) reduce pregnancy-related complications;

(3) improve health outcomes for pregnant women and infants; and

(4) reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity rate.

(b) A child is eligible for inclusion in the pilot program established under this section:

(1) if the child's mother is:

(A) a recipient of Medicaid during a pregnancy; and

(B) using medical transportation program services to travel to and from a covered health care service related

1 to the pregnancy, including postpartum care; and

2 (2) regardless of whether the child is also a
3 recipient of Medicaid.

4 (c) The pilot program shall be implemented in more than one
5 health care service region.

6 (d) The commission, with the assistance of the Maternal
7 Mortality and Morbidity Task Force established under Chapter 34,
8 Health and Safety Code, shall evaluate the results of the pilot
9 program and determine whether the program is effective in
10 increasing access to prenatal and postpartum care, reducing
11 pregnancy-related complications, improving health outcomes for
12 pregnant women and their newborn children, and reducing the
13 maternal mortality and morbidity rate. The evaluation must be
14 based on:

15 (1) the health outcomes of the pregnant women whose
16 children participated in the pilot program and of the women's
17 newborn children; or

18 (2) an assessment of the overall health and pregnancy
19 outcomes and trends in this state during the period of the program.

20 (e) Not later than September 1, 2021, the commission shall
21 report to the legislature on the results of the pilot program. The
22 report must include:

23 (1) a summary of the commission's evaluation under
24 Subsection (d); and

25 (2) the impact on costs under the medical
26 transportation program.

27 (f) The executive commissioner may adopt rules to implement

1 this section.

2 (g) This section expires September 1, 2021.

3 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act
4 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
5 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
6 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
7 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
8 waiver or authorization is granted.

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