

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 1752

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of eligibility for Medicaid to all persons for whom federal matching money is available.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 32.02472 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.02472. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission shall provide medical assistance to all persons who apply for that assistance and for whom federal matching money is available.

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

(c) The commission, in cooperation with the comptroller and Legislative Budget Board, shall conduct a study regarding the cost effects of the expanded eligibility. The study must identify:

(1) the estimated amount of health care costs hospital districts and counties in this state will save each state fiscal year by expanding that eligibility; and

(2) the estimated reduction in uncompensated care costs to hospital districts and counties that will result from the expansion of medical assistance eligibility and that would otherwise be paid from hospital district and county tax revenue.

SECTION 2. Chapter 26, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 26.0443 to read as follows:

1       Sec. 26.0443. TAX RATE ADJUSTMENT FOR EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY  
2 FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER FEDERAL LAW. In the first tax year in  
3 which a hospital district or a county adopts a tax rate and in which  
4 the state expands eligibility for medical assistance in accordance  
5 with and provides medical assistance using federal matching money  
6 made available under federal law as required by Section 32.02472,  
7 Human Resources Code, the effective tax rate and the rollback tax  
8 rate for the hospital district or the county are decreased by the  
9 rate that, if applied to current total value, would impose an amount  
10 of taxes equal to the reduction in uncompensated care costs  
11 realized by the hospital district or county as identified under  
12 Section 32.02472(c)(2), Human Resources Code, that will result from  
13 the provision of that assistance.

14       SECTION 3. Section 32.02472, Human Resources Code, as added  
15 by this Act, applies only to an initial determination or  
16 recertification of eligibility of a person for medical assistance  
17 under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, made on or after the date  
18 the section is implemented, regardless of the date the person  
19 applied for that assistance.

20       SECTION 4. As soon as possible after the effective date of  
21 this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
22 Services Commission shall take all necessary actions to expand  
23 eligibility for medical assistance under Chapter 32, Human  
24 Resources Code, in accordance with Section 32.02472, Human  
25 Resources Code, as added by this Act, including notifying  
26 appropriate federal agencies of that expanded eligibility.

27       SECTION 5. If before implementing any provision of this Act

1 a state agency determines that any other waiver or authorization  
2 from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that  
3 provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the  
4 waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision  
5 until the waiver or authorization is granted.

6 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.