

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 15, 2019

TO: Honorable Lois W. Kolkhorst, Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: John McGeady, Assistant Director Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director
Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1818 by Zaffirini (Relating to a competitive and integrated employment initiative for certain Medicaid recipients.), **As Introduced**

The fiscal implications of the bill, relating to a competitive and integrated employment initiative of certain Medicaid recipients, cannot be determined at this time. If additional appropriations are not provided, the number of persons served in the waiver program may be reduced.

The bill would amend the Government Code to direct the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to develop a process that assesses the goals of and competitive employment opportunities and related services available to an individual. The bill would require changes to existing program rules, the development and maintenance of data and performance measures, and the hiring or training of staff and contractors on the changed policies, procedures, and systems.

The provisions would apply to recipients of the following Medicaid waiver programs: the home and community-based services waiver; the Texas home living waiver; the deaf-blind with multiple disabilities waiver; the community living assistance and support services waiver; and the STAR+PLUS home and community-based services waiver. Rules developed by the commissioner must ensure that individuals who indicate a desire to work be referred to receive employment services from the Texas Workforce Commission, or through the waiver program in which the individual is enrolled.

According to HHSC, the provisions of the bill would require employment services be provided to additional waiver recipients. While there would be a significant cost to provide the services, HHSC is unable to provide a specific estimate because the actual cost per client would vary, and there could be offsets for reductions in other services. With the exception of the STAR+PLUS home and community-based services waiver program, the programs targeted by the bill are not entitlements. If additional appropriations are not provided, the cost of providing additional services would be offset by serving fewer clients in the programs.

This bill would codify current practices at the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). According to TWC, there is no anticipated fiscal implication to the state.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 320 Texas Workforce Commission, 529 Health and Human Services
Commission

LBB Staff: WP, AKi, CSt