87R2299 SCL-D

By:  Gates H.B. No. 571

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a bundled-pricing program to reduce certain health care costs in the state employees group benefits program.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 1551, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. BUNDLED-PRICING PROGRAM

Sec. 1551.501.  BUNDLED-PRICING PROGRAM. (a) The board of trustees shall develop a cost-positive bundled-pricing program for health benefit plans provided under the group benefits program.

(b)  The bundled-pricing program must be designed to reduce health care costs in the group benefits program by contracting with a health care facility, physician, or health care provider at a consolidated rate for an inpatient or outpatient surgery procedure that is a covered health care or medical service under a health benefit plan provided under the group benefits program.

(c)  A consolidated rate described by Subsection (b) must include all fees related to the covered surgery procedure, including fees for a facility, physician, health care provider, laboratory, prescription drug, or pharmacy service.

Sec. 1551.502.  PARTICIPATION; COST-SHARING OBLIGATION. (a) A participant may have an inpatient or outpatient surgery procedure under the bundled-pricing program.

(b)  Except as provided by Subsection (c), the board of trustees or a health care facility, physician, or health care provider may not require a participant to pay a deductible, copayment, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing obligation for a covered surgery procedure provided under the bundled-pricing program.

(c)  The board of trustees may require a participant in the state consumer-directed health plan established under Section 1551.452 to meet the participant's deductible before the plan pays for a covered surgery procedure provided under the bundled-pricing program.

Sec. 1551.503.  PROVIDER PARTICIPATION. (a) A health care facility, physician, or health care provider is not required to participate in the bundled-pricing program.

(b)  A health care facility may not coerce a facility-based provider, as defined by Section 1551.229, to participate in the bundled-pricing program or accept a lower rate for an inpatient or outpatient surgery procedure.

Sec. 1551.504.  PROMPT PAYMENT. The board of trustees shall ensure that a health care facility, physician, or health care provider that participates in the bundled-pricing program receives payment for a covered surgery procedure not later than the 30th day after the date the administrator receives a claim for the procedure that includes all information necessary for the administrator to pay the claim.

Sec. 1551.505.  BUNDLED-PRICING DISCLOSURE. A health care facility, physician, or health care provider that participates in the bundled-pricing program may disclose a consolidated rate for an inpatient or outpatient surgery procedure on the facility's, physician's, or provider's Internet website and marketing materials.

Sec. 1551.506.  PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION. The board of trustees shall publish information on the bundled-pricing program, including a list of participating health care facilities, physicians, and health care providers, on the Employees Retirement System of Texas website.

Sec. 1551.507.  RULEMAKING. The board of trustees may adopt rules as necessary to implement this subchapter.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.