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By:  Meza H.B. No. 4058

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on the provision of applied behavior analysis services to children with autism under Medicaid and other public benefits programs.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITIONS. (a) In this Act:

(1)  "Applied behavior analysis" means the practice described by Section 506.003, Occupations Code.

(2)  "Child health plan program" means the child health plan program established under Chapters 62 and 63, Health and Safety Code.

(3)  "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.

(4)  "Medicaid" means the medical assistance program established under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code.

SECTION 2.  STUDY: COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS ON PROVISION OF APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID AND OTHER PROGRAMS. (a) The commission shall conduct a cost-benefit analysis comparing the cost to the state of providing applied behavior analysis services to children with autism compared with the effectiveness of the services in treating children with autism. The study must:

(1)  determine the cost of applied behavior analysis services across all public benefits programs, including Medicaid, the child health plan program, and other health and human services programs; and

(2)  determine the efficacy of applied behavior analysis services provided to children with autism.

(b)  In conducting the study required by this section, the commission shall consult with all relevant state agencies that administer or operate a public benefits program to obtain all information necessary to conduct the study.

SECTION 3.  REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2022, the commission shall prepare and submit a report on the findings of the study conducted under Section 2 of this Act to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives having jurisdiction over health and human services.

SECTION 4.  EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2023.

SECTION 5.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.