87R5459 JES-D

By:  Gutierrez S.B. No. 939

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to copayments required by a health maintenance organization or preferred provider benefit plan for visiting physical therapists.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter F, Chapter 843, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 843.212 to read as follows:

Sec. 843.212.  PHYSICAL THERAPIST COPAYMENT LIMIT. A health care plan that requires an enrollee to pay a copayment for an office visit with the enrollee's primary care physician or provider may not charge a higher copayment amount to that enrollee for an office visit with a physical therapist.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter D, Chapter 1301, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 1301.166 to read as follows:

Sec. 1301.166.  PHYSICAL THERAPIST COPAYMENT LIMIT. A preferred provider benefit plan that requires an insured to pay a copayment for an office visit with the insured's primary care physician or provider may not charge a higher copayment amount to that insured for an office visit with a physical therapist.

SECTION 3.  The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2022.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.