By:  Blanco S.B. No. 2124

(In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2021; April 1, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce; April 23, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 23, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Hancock              X

Nichols              X

Campbell             X

Creighton            X

Johnson              X

Menéndez                      X

Paxton               X

Schwertner           X

Whitmire             X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a health benefit plan sponsor to consent to electronic delivery of certain communications on behalf of a party enrolled in the plan.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 35.001, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (4-a) to read as follows:

(4-a)  "Plan sponsor" means a person, other than a regulated entity, who establishes, adopts, or maintains a health benefit plan, including a vision or dental benefit plan, that covers residents of this state, including a plan established, adopted, or maintained by an employer or jointly by an employer and one or more employee organizations, an association, a committee, a joint board of trustees, or any similar group of representatives who establish, adopt, or maintain a plan.

SECTION 2.  Chapter 35, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Section 35.0041 to read as follows:

Sec. 35.0041.  CONSENT TO ELECTRONIC DELIVERY BY PLAN SPONSOR. (a) The plan sponsor of a health benefit plan, including a vision or dental benefit plan, may, on behalf of a party enrolled in the plan, give the consent required by Section 35.004(c)(1).

(b)  Before consenting on behalf of a party, a plan sponsor must:

(1)  provide the party with the statements required by Sections 35.004(c)(2) and (c)(3)(A);

(2)  confirm that the party routinely uses electronic communications during the normal course of employment; and

(3)  provide the party an opportunity to opt out of delivery by electronic means.

SECTION 3.  The change in law made by this Act applies 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.

\* \* \* \* \*