

By: Cortez

H.B. No. 280

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an action plan to expand telemedicine medical services and telehealth services and increase access to critical medical care and health care services in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.021611 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.021611. ACTION PLAN FOR TELEMEDICINE MEDICAL SERVICES, TELEHEALTH SERVICES, CRITICAL MEDICAL CARE, AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES. (a) The commission shall develop and implement an action plan to:

(1) expand the use by health care providers of telemedicine medical services, telehealth services, and related mobile applications for those services and increase access to those services and applications for the residents of this state; and

(2) increase the availability of critical medical care and health care services to residents in areas of this state determined by the commission to be medically underserved, including rural areas and areas adjacent to an international border.

(b) In developing and implementing the action plan, the commission shall:

(1) seek the assistance of the Texas Hospital Association, the Texas Medical Association, teaching hospitals, and the statewide health coordinating council; and

1 (2) consult with health care providers, advocacy
2 groups, relevant federal agencies, and any other interested persons
3 the commission considers necessary to develop the action plan
4 required by this section.

5 (c) The action plan must include:

6 (1) short-term and long-term plan recommendations,
7 including policy initiatives and reforms necessary to implement the
8 plan;

9 (2) statutory and administrative reforms necessary to
10 implement the plan; and

11 (3) options for the funding necessary to implement the
12 plan.

13 (d) The commission shall:

14 (1) not later than September 1, 2023:

15 (A) submit to the governor and the legislature
16 the short-term and long-term plan recommendations, the statutory
17 and administrative reforms, and the funding options described in
18 Subsection (c) and the steps for implementing those
19 recommendations, reforms, and options; and

20 (B) begin implementing the short-term plan;

21 (2) not later than September 1, 2025, fully implement
22 the short-term plan;

23 (3) not later than September 1, 2031, fully implement
24 the long-term plan; and

25 (4) include the short-term and long-term plans in the
26 update of the strategic plan for health and human services under
27 Section [531.022](#).

1 (e) This section expires September 1, 2032.

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