

By: Shine

H.B. No. 2247

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a demonstration program at the State Office of Risk Management for real-time processing of workers' compensation authorizations of payment for medical services and medical bills.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 412, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 412.0129 to read as follows:

Sec. 412.0129. AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL BILLS REAL-TIME PROCESSING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM. (a) The office may develop and implement a demonstration program for processing workers' compensation authorizations of payment for medical services and medical bills in real time if the office determines that the program would be cost-effective.

(b) The demonstration program described by Subsection (a) must include:

(1) a secure single platform, Internet-based portal for use by the office, state agencies, injured employees, and health care providers;

(2) the ability to collect, input, and transmit administrative and clinical data, including:

(A) patient information;

(B) health care provider contracts;

(C) treatment guidelines; and

(D) other information the office considers

1 necessary for processing authorizations and medical bills;

2 (3) an automated process to streamline requests for
3 authorizations of payment for medical services and peer reviews at
4 the point of care; and

5 (4) return-to-work best practices for workers'
6 compensation claims, including complex case management.

7 (c) The workers' compensation research and evaluation group
8 may assist the office in identifying and adopting measures for
9 evaluating the demonstration program.

10 (d) The evaluation period for the demonstration program
11 shall end on June 30, 2024.

12 (e) If the office implements a demonstration program under
13 this section, not later than December 31, 2024, the office shall
14 provide to the board a report that:

15 (1) evaluates the program, including any effects of
16 the program on administrative cost savings;

17 (2) recommends whether to use the process implemented
18 under the program on a permanent basis; and

19 (3) if the office determines administrative cost
20 savings were not achieved by the process implemented under the
21 program, includes:

22 (A) the reasons that the program did not result
23 in administrative cost savings; and

24 (B) recommendations for proposed legislation to
25 develop a cost-effective system for processing workers'
26 compensation authorizations of payment for medical services and
27 medical bills in real time.

1 (f) If the report of the demonstration program under
2 Subsection (e) indicates that administrative cost savings are
3 achieved by the process implemented under the program, the board
4 may adopt and use the process on a permanent basis.

5 (g) This section expires September 1, 2025.

6 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2022, the State Office
7 of Risk Management shall study and make a determination as to
8 whether the demonstration program described by Section 412.0129,
9 Labor Code, as added by this Act, would be cost-effective. If the
10 office determines the program would be cost-effective and decides
11 to implement the program, the office shall fully implement the
12 program not later than January 1, 2023.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.