

By: Zaffirini  
(Howard)

S.B. No. 790

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to county authority to balance bill for county air ambulance services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 113.902(a), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 113.9025, the [The] county treasurer shall direct prosecution for the recovery of any debt owed to the county, as provided by law, and shall supervise the collection of the debt.

SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 113, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 113.9025 to read as follows:

Sec. 113.9025. BALANCE BILLING FOR COUNTY AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES. (a) "Balance billing" means the practice of charging an enrollee in a health benefit plan to recover from the enrollee the balance of a health care provider's fee for a service received by the enrollee from the health care provider that is not fully reimbursed by the enrollee's health benefit plan.

(b) A county may elect to consider a health benefit plan payment towards a claim for air ambulance services provided by the county as payment in full for those services regardless of the amount the county charged for those services.

(c) A county may not practice balance billing for a claim for which the county makes an election under Subsection (b).

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.