

By: Blanco

S.B. No. 1707

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain group health care benefits and the promotion of telehealth services for certain persons who are eligible for Medicaid or the child health plan program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 62.061 to read as follows:

Sec. 62.061. HEALTH SERVICES INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE TELEHEALTH SERVICES. (a) In this section, "telehealth service" has the meaning assigned by Section 111.001, Occupations Code.

(b) The commission shall develop and implement a health services initiative designed to leverage federal money available under the child health plan program under 42 U.S.C. Section 1397ee(a)(1)(D)(ii) to fund technology or infrastructure needed to promote the availability and use of telehealth services for providing health care benefits in a group setting to a child:

(1) who is 18 years of age or younger; and

(2) whose annual household income is equal to or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

(c) To the extent possible, the health services initiative must be designed to identify children who are eligible for the child health plan program and children who are eligible for the medical assistance program under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code. The commission may automatically enroll an identified child in the

1 child health plan program or the medical assistance program, as
2 applicable.

3 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code,
4 is amended by adding Section 32.0248 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 32.0248. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN GROUP HEALTH
6 CARE BENEFITS; ENHANCED REIMBURSEMENT. (a) The commission shall
7 provide medical assistance at an enhanced reimbursement rate for:

8 (1) prenatal care benefits provided to a recipient who
9 is pregnant in a group setting with other pregnant women; and

10 (2) health care benefits provided to a recipient who
11 is younger than two years of age in a group setting with other
12 children of the same age group.

13 (b) In providing medical assistance under Subsection
14 (a)(1), the commission shall ensure prenatal care benefits provided
15 by the following provider types are reimbursable:

16 (1) a federally qualified health center as defined by
17 42 U.S.C. Section 1396d(1)(2)(B);

18 (2) a rural health clinic as defined by 42 U.S.C.
19 Section 1396d(1)(1); and

20 (3) other facility-based providers.

21 SECTION 3. If before implementing any provision of this Act
22 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
23 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
24 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
25 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
26 waiver or authorization is granted.

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