A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT
relating to the provision of counseling services by certain
providers under Medicaid and reimbursement for those services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 32.027, Human Resources Code, is amended
by adding Subsection (m) to read as follows:

(m) The commission shall assure that a recipient of medical
assistance under this chapter may select the following to perform
any health care service or procedure covered under the medical
assistance program if the selected person is licensed and
authorized by law to perform the service or procedure:

(1) a licensed master social worker, as defined by
Section 505.002, Occupations Code, who is actively pursuing the
education and training required to be licensed as a licensed
clinical social worker, as defined by that section; or

(2) a licensed professional counselor associate, as
described by 22 T.A.C. Chapter 681, who is working toward
fulfilling the supervised practice requirements to be licensed as a
licensed professional counselor, as defined by Section 503.002,
Occupations Code.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 32, Human Resources Code,
is amended by adding Section 32.079 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.079. REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN COUNSELING
SERVICES. (a) The commission shall provide reimbursement under
the medical assistance program to a provider described by Section 32.027(m) who is selected by a recipient of medical assistance and who provides a health care service or procedure covered under the medical assistance program that the provider is authorized by law to perform. The commission shall ensure that the provider is reimbursed at a rate equal to 70 percent of the reimbursement rate established for a licensed psychiatrist or licensed psychologist for providing similar services.

(b) This section shall be liberally construed.

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

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.