

By: Johnson

S.B. No. 2417

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a study on the effects of providing child life
3 specialist services to certain individuals who receive supportive
4 palliative care.

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

6 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

7 (1) "Advisory council" means the Palliative Care
8 Interdisciplinary Advisory Council established under Chapter 118,
9 Health and Safety Code.

10 (2) "Child life specialist" means a health care
11 provider that offers psychosocial support to pediatric patients and
12 to the children of seriously ill adult patients by helping improve a
13 child's coping skills, aiding in the development of holistic pain
14 management and other symptom management strategies for pediatric
15 patients, and improving the overall patient experience.

16 (3) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services
17 Commission.

18 SECTION 2. STUDY REGARDING CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST SERVICES.

19 (a) The commission, in collaboration with the advisory council,
20 shall conduct a study to assess the effects of supporting the use of
21 child life specialist services by or providing child life
22 specialist services to adult and child Medicaid recipients in this
23 state who receive supportive palliative care in inpatient or
24 community-based settings, including:

1 (1) potential improvements to recipients' health care
2 outcomes and quality of life; and

3 (2) anticipated cost savings to this state.

4 (b) The study must identify:

5 (1) the role child life specialists currently play in
6 providing supportive palliative care services to individuals,
7 including Medicaid recipients, in inpatient and community-based
8 settings in this state;

9 (2) the current funding method for child life
10 specialist positions;

11 (3) opportunities for increasing the use of child life
12 specialist services in this state; and

13 (4) best practices for using child life specialist
14 services as developed by other states.

15 (c) The advisory council shall provide recommendations to
16 the commission regarding the structure and goals of the study,
17 including recommendations for:

18 (1) specific populations to receive supportive
19 palliative care under Medicaid;

20 (2) variables and outcomes to measure in the study;
21 and

22 (3) entities, including hospitals, hospices, and home
23 health agencies, with which the commission may collaborate to
24 conduct the study.

25 (d) The commission may:

26 (1) collaborate with private and public entities as
27 necessary to conduct the study; and

1 (2) solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations
2 from any public or private source to fund the study.

3 SECTION 3. REPORT TO ADVISORY COUNCIL AND LEGISLATURE. (a)
4 Not later than September 1, 2026, the commission shall prepare and
5 submit to the advisory council a report on the results of the study
6 conducted under this Act.

7 (b) The advisory council shall include the commission's
8 report under Subsection (a) of this section in the advisory
9 council's 2026 biennial report to the legislature required by
10 Section [118.010](#), Health and Safety Code.

11 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires December 31, 2026.

12 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
13 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
14 elected to each house, as provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas
15 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
16 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.