

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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C.S.S.B. 1307
By: Cook et al.
Health & Human Services
3/26/2025
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) has information relating to health insurance available to the public for reference when making important health care decisions. However, this information is segmented, and often difficult for the public to comprehend. As such, a comprehensive aggregate guide to health insurance can help the public make more informed choices when it comes to health insurance.

For example, in Texas, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) publishes and maintains an aggregate reference guide for Medicaid and CHIP. This guide, commonly known as the "Pink Book," provides straightforward and easily digestible information about Medicaid and CHIP, to the public. The guide has proven to be a valuable resource in simplifying the Medicaid and CHIP process. As such, creating an cumulative guide of resources from TDI can help simplify the process of selecting a healthcare plan and provide the public with accurate information to make the best healthcare choice possible.

Proposed Legislation/Key Provisions

- S.B. 1307 directs TDI to develop and publish a biennial comprehensive reference guide designed to educate the public about health care coverage in the state.
- The reference guide will include information regarding a health coverage shopping guide, which includes information on provider networks, the difference between in-network and out-of-network providers, and an explanation of the Affordable Care Act marketplace plan categories, among other information.

Committee Substitute Explanation

- The committee substitute strikes healthcare sharing ministries from the health coverage guide required to be included in the reference guide. Additionally, the committee substitute allows TDI to work with HHSC to develop the guide.

C.S.S.B. 1307 amends current law relating to a biennial health coverage reference guide developed by the Texas Department of Insurance.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subtitle B, Title 5, Insurance Code, by adding Chapter 524A, as follows:

CHAPTER 524A. PUBLIC EDUCATION ON HEALTH COVERAGE

Sec. 524A.001. BIENNIAL HEALTH COVERAGE REFERENCE GUIDE. (a) Requires the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to consult with the Health and Human Services Commission to develop a biennial reference guide designed to educate the public about health coverage in this state.

(b) Requires that the reference guide include the following information:

- (1) the biennial period covered by the current edition;
- (2) definitions of the term "health insurance" and terms used to describe other forms of health coverage;
- (3) sources from which consumers may obtain health coverage, including through employers, and an explanation of how coverage is authorized to be obtained from each of those sources;
- (4) a guide to consumer rights and resources related to health coverage;
- (5) a health coverage shopping guide that includes certain information;
- (6) an explanation of the effect of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (Pub. L. No. 99-272) on consumers' health coverage;
- (7) a basic overview of federal, state, and local programs that are authorized to assist consumers to obtain health care services;
- (8) methods for a consumer to resolve disputes with a health coverage issuer or administrator;
- (9) methods to seek assistance from TDI for a complaint regarding a health coverage plan or product; and
- (10) the areas of health coverage regulated by TDI and those regulated by federal law, including the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. Section 1001 et seq.).

(c) Requires TDI to publish the reference guide developed under this section on TDI's Internet website and in a printed form available to the public on request.

SECTION 2. Requires TDI to publish the first biennial reference guide under Section 524A.001, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2026.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2025.