By: Howard H.B. No. 2276

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of certain benefits, including applied behavior analysis, behavior supports, and associated evaluation services, through telecommunications or information technology under certain public benefits programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 548.0001(b), Government Code, as effective April 1, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

(b) To the extent permitted by federal law and to the extent it is cost-effective and clinically effective, as the commission determines, the commission shall ensure that Medicaid recipients, child health plan program enrollees, and other individuals receiving benefits under a public benefits program the commission or a health and human services agency administers, regardless of whether receiving benefits through a managed care delivery model or another delivery model <u>or under a Section 1915(c) waiver program</u>, have the option to receive services as telemedicine medical services, telehealth services, or otherwise using telecommunications or information technology, including the following services:

(1) preventive health and wellness services;

(2) case management services, including targeted case management services;

(3) subject to Subsection (c), behavioral health

services;

(4) occupational, physical, and speech therapy services;

(5) applied behavior analysis, behavior supports, and associated evaluation services;

(6) nutritional counseling services; and

(7) [~~(6)~~] assessment services, including nursing assessments under the following Section 1915(c) waiver programs:

(A) the community living assistance and support services (CLASS) waiver program;

(B) the deaf-blind with multiple disabilities (DBMD) waiver program;

(C) the home and community-based services (HCS) waiver program; and

(D) the Texas home living (TxHmL) waiver program.

SECTION 2. 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 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.