

By: Simmons

H.B. No. 2604

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of eligibility for Medicaid to certain individuals under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subchapter H to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER H. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Sec. 32.351. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission shall provide medical assistance to all individuals who apply for that assistance and for whom federal matching funds are available under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. No. 111-148), as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Pub. L. No. 111-152), to provide that assistance.

(b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules regarding the provision of medical assistance as required by this section.

Sec. 32.352. ANNUAL REPORT ON EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. Not later than December 1 of each year, the commission shall report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each member of the legislature on the effects of expanding eligibility for medical assistance under Section 32.351, including the effects on:

1           (1) the number of individuals in this state who do not  
2 have health benefits coverage;

3           (2) state health care costs, including costs relating  
4 to programs funded with money appropriated out of the general  
5 revenue fund;

6           (3) local health care costs; and

7           (4) charity care and uncompensated care costs for  
8 hospitals.

9           SECTION 2. Section 32.351, Human Resources Code, as added  
10 by this Act, applies only to an initial determination or  
11 recertification of eligibility of an individual for medical  
12 assistance under Chapter 32, Human Resources Code, made on or after  
13 January 1, 2026, regardless of the date the individual applied for  
14 that assistance.

15           SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
16 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
17 Services Commission shall take all necessary actions to expand  
18 eligibility for medical assistance under Chapter 32, Human  
19 Resources Code, in accordance with Section 32.351, Human Resources  
20 Code, as added by this Act, including notifying appropriate federal  
21 agencies of that expanded eligibility. If before implementing any  
22 provision of this Act a state agency determines that any other  
23 waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for  
24 implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the  
25 provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay  
26 implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is  
27 granted.

1           SECTION 4. Notwithstanding Section 32.352, Human Resources  
2 Code, as added by this Act, the commission is not required to submit  
3 the initial report required by that section until December 1, 2026.

4           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026, but only  
5 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 89th Legislature,  
6 Regular Session, 2025, requiring the state to expand eligibility  
7 for Medicaid to all individuals for whom federal matching funds are  
8 available under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care  
9 Act is approved by the voters. If that amendment is not approved by  
10 the voters, this Act has no effect.