

By: Simmons

H.B. No. 2925

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a grant program for hospitals to assist with certain  
3 costs incurred by families of chronically ill children receiving  
4 hospital care.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 526, Government Code, as  
7 effective April 1, 2025, is amended by adding Section 526.0061 to  
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 526.0061. GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOSPITALS TO ASSIST WITH  
10 CERTAIN COSTS RELATED TO CARE PROVIDED TO CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN.

11 (a) In this section:

12 (1) "Grant program" means the grant program for  
13 hospitals to assist with certain costs related to care provided to  
14 chronically ill children established under this section.

15 (2) "Hospital" means a hospital licensed under Chapter  
16 241, Health and Safety Code.

17 (b) The executive commissioner by rule shall establish and  
18 the commission shall administer a grant program for hospitals to  
19 assist families of chronically ill children with the costs of food  
20 and parking while a child receives health care services related to  
21 the child's chronic illness at a hospital.

22 (c) The rules adopted by the executive commissioner  
23 establishing the grant program under this section must include  
24 rules:

1           (1) prescribing eligibility criteria, application  
2 procedures, and a scoring system for awarding grants under the  
3 grant program to eligible hospitals; and

4           (2) designating the diagnoses considered chronic  
5 illnesses for purposes of the grant program.

6           (d) A hospital may provide money awarded under the grant  
7 program only:

8           (1) to a parent, guardian, or caretaker of a child who:

9                   (A) is diagnosed with a chronic illness  
10 designated by the executive commissioner; and

11                   (B) meets the financial eligibility requirements  
12 for Medicaid; and

13           (2) for the purpose of reimbursing the parent,  
14 guardian, or caretaker for the actual costs incurred for parking at  
15 and purchasing food from the hospital at which the chronically ill  
16 child is hospitalized or otherwise receives care for the chronic  
17 illness.

18           (e) The commission shall award grants as provided by this  
19 section from available money, including money appropriated for the  
20 purpose of the grant program.

21           (f) The commission may accept gifts, grants, and donations  
22 from any source for the purpose of the grant program.

23           (g) Beginning on the first anniversary of the date a  
24 hospital is awarded money under the grant program, the hospital  
25 shall annually submit to the commission a written report detailing  
26 the use of grant money the hospital received under the program and  
27 related outcomes as determined by the executive commissioner.

1        (h) The commission shall review the grant program at least  
2 once every four years and determine whether the program should be  
3 continued or modified.

4        SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
5 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
6 Services Commission shall adopt rules to implement Section  
7 526.0061, Government Code, as added by this Act.

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