

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 962

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the provision of certain benefits, including applied  
3 behavior analysis, behavior supports, and associated evaluation  
4 services, through telecommunications or information technology  
5 under certain public benefits programs.

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

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

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

- 21 (1) preventive health and wellness services;  
22 (2) case management services, including targeted case  
23 management services;  
24 (3) subject to Subsection (c), behavioral health

1 services;

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

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

6 (6) nutritional counseling services; and

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

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

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

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

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

16 SECTION 2. If before implementing any provision of this Act  
17 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a  
18 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,  
19 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or  
20 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the  
21 waiver or authorization is granted.

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