

By: Schwertner

S.B. No. 1945

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of certain individuals younger than 65 years of age to purchase Medicare supplement benefit plans.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 1652, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Sections 1652.059 and 1652.060 to read as follows:

Sec. 1652.059. COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS YOUNGER THAN 65. (a) In this section, "entity" means an entity that delivers or issues for delivery a Medicare supplement benefit plan in this state.

(b) An entity that offers coverage under a Medicare supplement benefit plan to individuals 65 years of age or older must offer the same coverage to individuals younger than 65 years of age who are eligible for and enrolled in Medicare by reason of disability or end stage renal disease.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by rules adopted under Section 1652.051, any benefit, protection, policy, or procedure applicable to coverage under a plan for an individual 65 years of age or older must apply to coverage offered under Subsection (b).

(d) An entity shall offer a plan under Subsection (b) at the same premium rate charged for that plan to an individual 65 years of age.

Sec. 1652.060. OPEN AND SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS FOR

1 CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS YOUNGER THAN 65. (a) In this section, "entity"  
2 means an entity that delivers or issues for delivery a Medicare  
3 supplement benefit plan in this state.

4 (b) An individual eligible for coverage under a Medicare  
5 supplement benefit plan under Section 1652.059 may enroll any time  
6 during:

7 (1) the six-month period beginning the first day of  
8 the first month the individual becomes enrolled for benefits under  
9 Medicare Part B;

10 (2) a 60-day open enrollment period each year  
11 beginning on the date of the individual's birth; or

12 (3) a special enrollment period designated by the  
13 commissioner.

14 (c) During an enrollment period, an entity may not:

15 (1) deny or condition the issuance or effectiveness of  
16 a Medicare supplement benefit plan or certificate that the entity  
17 offers and is available for issuance in this state;

18 (2) subject an applicant to medical underwriting or  
19 discriminate in the price of a Medicare supplement benefit plan or  
20 certificate because of the applicant's health status, claims  
21 experience, receipt of health care, or medical condition; or

22 (3) impose an exclusion of benefits based on an  
23 applicant's preexisting condition.

24 (d) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to  
25 administer this section, including rules designating enrollment  
26 periods.

27 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to

1 a Medicare supplement benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery,  
2 or renewed on or after September 1, 2025.

3 SECTION 3. In addition to other enrollment periods provided  
4 by law, an individual younger than 65 years of age and enrolled in  
5 Medicare Part B by reason of disability or end stage renal disease  
6 on the effective date of this Act may apply for coverage under a  
7 Medicare supplement benefit plan:

8 (1) after August 31, 2025, and before March 2, 2026; or

9 (2) if the individual is unable to submit an  
10 application for coverage under the plan during the period described  
11 by Subdivision (1) of this section because the application is not  
12 available and the individual requested the application during that  
13 period, during a six-month period beginning on the date the  
14 application initially becomes available.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.