

By: Hancock, West

S.B. No. 2544

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for mediation of certain out-of-network health benefit claims.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1467.054(a), Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Not later than the 90th day after the date an out-of-network provider receives an initial payment for a health care or medical service or supply, an ~~An~~ out-of-network provider or a health benefit plan issuer or administrator may request mandatory mediation under this subchapter.

SECTION 2. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a dispute regarding charges for a health care or medical service or supply provided on or after the effective date of this Act.

(b) A dispute regarding charges for a health care or medical service or supply provided before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act if mediation of the dispute under Subchapter B, Chapter 1467, Insurance Code, is requested on or before the 120th day after the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(c) If mediation of a dispute under Subchapter B, Chapter 1467, Insurance Code, regarding charges for a health care or

1 medical service or supply provided before the effective date of
2 this Act is not requested on or before the 120th day after the
3 effective date of this Act, the dispute is not eligible for
4 mediation under that subchapter.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.