

SUBJECT: Reinstating Medicaid for certain children placed in juvenile facilities

COMMITTEE: Human Services — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Klick, Meza, Neave, Noble, Rose, Shaheen

0 nays

1 absent — Hull

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Tammy Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Matthew Lovitt and Greg Hansch, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas; Alison Mohr Boleware, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Russell Schaffner, Tarrant County; Kate Murphy, Texans Care for Children; Sara Gonzalez, Texas Hospital Association; Joshua Houston, Texas Impact; Lauren Rose, Texas Network of Youth Services; Jennifer Allmon, The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Knox Kimberly, Upbring; Sarah Garcia)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Janie Contreras, Texas Health and Human Services Commission)

BACKGROUND: Human Resources Code sec. 32.0264 requires that, to the extent allowed under federal law, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) suspend a child's eligibility for Medicaid during the period a child is placed in a juvenile facility.

Concerns have been raised regarding the inability to use Medicaid dollars to pay for inpatient stays at medical facilities for children placed in juvenile facilities, and interested parties have suggested that a requirement to reinstate Medicaid coverage in such limited situations would save

taxpayer dollars.

DIGEST:

HB 1664 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to reinstate a child's eligibility for Medicaid if during the period the child was placed in a juvenile facility, the child was hospitalized or became an inpatient in another type of medical facility. The reinstatement would be for the period of the child's stay at the inpatient facility.

HHSC would have to adopt rules necessary to implement the bill's provisions, including rules on the procedure for reinstating a child's eligibility for Medicaid.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.