

- SUBJECT:** Revising certain information in Medicaid application form
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Frank, Hull, Klick, Meza, Neave, Noble, Rose, Shaheen
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Hinojosa
- WITNESSES:** For — Vikas Chowdhry, Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation; Kay Ghahremani, Texas Association of Community Health Plans; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Marisa Finley, Baylor Scott & White Health; Patricia Kolodzey, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas; Michael Dole, Driscoll Health System; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Laurie Vanhose, Texas Association of Health Plans; Olivia Chriss, Texas Children's Hospital; Clayton Stewart, Texas Medical Association; Clayton Travis, Texas Pediatric Society)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Janie Quertermous, Texas Health and Human Services Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** Human Resources Code sec. 32.025(g) requires the application form for Medicaid to include:
- for an applicant who is pregnant, a question regarding whether the pregnancy is the woman's first gestational pregnancy; and
 - a question regarding the applicant's preferences for being contacted, including telephone, text message, and/or e-mail.
- While recent legislation included an applicant's preferred method of contact in the application form, suggestions have been made to clearly notify applicants about the security risks of electronic communication.

DIGEST: CSHB 4343 would revise current information and require additional information in the application form for Medicaid under current law. The bill would require a renewal form for Medicaid to reflect the same information as the revised application form.

Under the bill, the forms would have to include language that:

- notified the applicant that, if determined eligible for benefits, all preferred contact methods listed on the forms would be shared with the applicant's managed care organization (MCO) or health plan provider;
- allowed the applicant to consent to being contacted through the preferred contact methods by the applicant's MCO or health plan provider; and
- explained the security risks of electronic communication.

The forms also would have to include a question about the applicant's preferred contact method.

The bill would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to implement a process to transmit the applicant's preferred contact methods and consent to the MCO or health plan provider; allow an applicant to change the applicant's preferences in the future, including providing an option to opt out of electronic communication; and communicate updated information to the MCO or health plan provider.

By January 1, 2022, the executive commissioner of HHSC would have to adopt a revised application form for Medicaid.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.