

- SUBJECT:** Authorizing Medicaid reimbursement for certain health services
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Hull, Klick, Meza, Neave, Noble
- 1 nay — Shaheen
- 1 absent — Rose
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 4 — 30-0
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Greg Hansch, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Isabel Casas and Lee Johnson, Texas Council of Community Centers; Shannon Noble, Texas Counseling Association; Troy Alexander, Texas Medical Association)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Concerned parties have noted that while authorized managed care organizations are able to contract with private providers to offer behavioral and physical health services, providers are not able to receive reimbursement until a patient is actually enrolled in managed care. This means that if a patient is enrolled in Medicaid but not yet enrolled in managed care, a facility that treats the patient is not able to seek reimbursement. Some suggest addressing this issue by providing for Medicaid reimbursement for the provision of certain health services.
- DIGEST:** SB 1921 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide Medicaid reimbursement to a public or private provider of behavioral health services through a fee-for-service delivery model for services provided to a recipient before that recipient's enrollment with and receipt of Medicaid services through a managed care organization.

HHSC also would have to ensure that a public or private provider of behavioral health services who was reimbursed under the bill was provided Medicaid reimbursement through a managed care model for services provided to a recipient after that recipient's enrollment with and receipt of Medicaid services through a managed care organization.

The bill would require HHSC to implement the bill's provisions only if the Legislature appropriated money specifically for that purpose. If money was not specifically appropriated for the bill, HHSC could, but would not be required to, implement the bill's provisions using other appropriations that were available for that purpose.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2022.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the fiscal implications of the bill could not be determined because the impact on the scope of services provided and the number of providers eligible to receive reimbursement is unknown.