

SUBJECT: Allowing school districts to enroll as Medicaid providers

COMMITTEE: Youth Health & Safety, Select — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — S. Thompson, Allison, Capriglione, Dutton, A. Johnson, Landgraf, Lozano

1 nay — Hull

1 absent — T. King

WITNESSES: For — Lyssette Galvan, NAMI Texas; Robin McDurham, Transformation Waco (*Registered, but did not testify*: Amanda List, AList Consulting; Tricia Cave, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Mandi Kimball, Children at Risk; Lindsey Adams, City of El Paso; Georgia Bates, City of Uvalde; Christine Bryan, Clarity Child Guidance Center; Jolene Sanders-Foster, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Steven Aleman, Disability Rights Texas; LaNaya Blackwell, Equality Texas; Jennifer Biundo, Healthy Futures of Texas; Paige Duggins-Clay, IDRA; Elizabeth Henneke, Lone Star Justice Alliance; Rebecca Fowler, Mental Health America of Greater Houston; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Ian Randolph, MSB School Services; Hailey McMahon, Texans Care for Children; Christine Broughal, Texans for Special Education Reform; Charles Miller, Texas 2036; Ana Gonzalez, Texas AFL-CIO; Alejandro Peña, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Kristian Caballero, Uyiosa Elegon, Martin Martinez, Texas Appleseed; John Hubbard, Texas Association of Rural Schools; Amanda Afifi, Texas Association of School Psychologists; Alycia Castillo, Texas Center for Justice and Equity; Lonnie Hollingsworth, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Andrea Chevalier, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education; Leela Rice, Texas Council of Community Centers; Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Cameron Duncan, Texas Hospital Association; Lauren Rose, Texas Network of Youth Services; Jill Sutton, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; Linda Litzinger, Texas Parent to Parent; Clayton Travis, Texas Pediatric Society; Ikenna Okoro, Texas Psychological Association;

Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; Amy Miller, Texas Public Charter Schools Association; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; Elaina Fowler, Texas State Teachers Association; Kerrie Judice, TexProtects; Christine Busse, The National Association Of Social Workers - Texas Chapter; Jennifer Allmon, The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Kasey Corpus, Young Invincibles; Susana Carranza; Francesca Leahy; Maria Person; Valerie Smith)

Against — Laura Heffelfinger (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cindy Najera, CCDF Travis; Lee Spiller, Citizens Commission on Human Rights; Robert L. Green, TCRP Election Integrity Committee; Mary Elizabeth Castle, Texas Values Action; Adam Cahn; Chris Drewry; Michelle Evans; Cristin Woodruff)

On — Suzii Paynter March, H.E.Butt Foundation (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michelle Erwin, Megan Wolfe, Health and Human Services Commission; Eric Marin, Julie Wayman, TEA; Kristin McGuire, Texas Education Agency)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that providing more structure for the delivery of mental health services within a school setting and allowing a school district to bill Medicaid for services would increase a district's ability to provide mental health support for students.

DIGEST: HB 98 would authorize a school district to contract with a local mental health authority to provide mental health services on a campus of the district.

At the request of a student's parent or guardian, a contracted authority that conducted an assessment or provided health services to a student would be required to provide the student's primary care physician with the results of the assessment conducted and, if applicable, the results of any services provided.

The Health and Human Services Commission would be required to allow a school district to enroll as a provider under Medicaid to provide and

receive reimbursement for the provision of mental health services to district students who were Medicaid recipients.

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, 2023.

NOTES:

According the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), the fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined due to uncertainty regarding implementation and utilization of a new program and services.