

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R9191 KKA-D

H.B. 1285  
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Health Services  
5/3/1999  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, Texas law does not require the presence of a child's parent or guardian during a visit to the child's Medicaid primary care physician. Some questions regarding physician reimbursement from Medicaid have been raised, because of the lack of a witness to treatment. H.B. 1285 would require the Texas Department of Human Services to require a child younger than 15 to be accompanied by the child's parent, guardian, or another adult authorized by the parent or guardian to accompany the child at a visit or screening as a condition of eligibility for physician reimbursement under Medicaid.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 1285 requires a child to be accompanied at a medical visit or screening by an adult authorized by the child's parent or guardian if the child is under 15, in order to be reimbursed for the costs of the visit or screening

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 32.024(s), Human Resources Code, to require the Texas Department of Human Services, in its rules governing the early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment program, to require, as a condition for eligibility for reimbursement under the program for the cost of services provided at a visit or screening, that a child younger than 15 years of age be accompanied at the visit or screening by the child's parent or guardian, or another adult, including an adult related to the child, authorized by the child's parent or guardian to accompany the child. Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Requires a state agency to request the waiver or authorization and to delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted, if before implementing any provision of this Act the state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.