

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R1209 JAT-D

H.B. 342
By: McClendon (Van de Putte)
Health & Human Services
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

The House Committee on Public Health, in its Interim Report to the 77th Legislature, indicated that disease management is a growing trend in both public and privately funded health care delivery systems. The focus of disease management is on improving quality and containing total cost to provide a more effective and systematic approach to managing patients with chronic illnesses. The Subcommittee on Disease Management, in addressing the charge of evaluating the role and potential of disease management in public health programs serving chronically ill populations, recommended that a disease management pilot study be conducted to study asthma. More than one million Texans suffer from asthma and one-third are children. Asthma, which is a chronic, potentially fatal disease, appears to be an ideal target for disease management, as it has the potential through disease management for cost-effectiveness while improving the quality of care. H.B. 342 establishes a children's asthma disease management pilot study to be conducted in both a rural and urban environment using techniques that are transferable to private practice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Department of Health in SECTION 1 (Section 95.001, Health and Safety Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Title 2D, Health and Safety Code by adding Chapter 95, as follows:

CHAPTER 95. CHILDREN'S ASTHMA DISEASE MANAGEMENT PILOT STUDY

Sec. 95.001. CHILDREN'S ASTHMA DISEASE MANAGEMENT PILOT STUDY. (a) Requires the Texas Department of Health (department) by rule to establish a pilot study to compare preventative disease management methods for treating children's asthma with traditional methods of treating the disease.

- (b) Requires the department to conduct the pilot study in an urban setting and in a rural setting.
- (c) Requires the department, in conducting the pilot study, to use disease management techniques that are transferrable to private practice and to other geographical areas of the state.
- (d) Authorizes the pilot study to measure certain outcomes.

Sec. 95.002. REPORT. (a) Requires the department, not later than November 1, 2002, to submit to the legislature an interim written report containing the findings of the pilot study.

- (b) Requires the department, not later than November 1, 2003, to submit to the legislature a final written report containing the findings of the pilot study and the

department's recommendations.

Sec. 95.003. EXPIRATION DATE. Provides that this chapter expires September 1, 2005.

SECTION 2. Provides the Texas Department of Health to request a waiver or authorization and authorizes the agency to delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted, if the agency determines before implementing SECTION 1 of this Act that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001.