

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R8902 JAT-D

H.B. 835
By: Kitchen (Moncrief)
Health & Human Services
5/1/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, low-income families are often unable to obtain affordable, quality health care. Many parents of children who benefit from CHIP and Medicaid are not eligible for the state-sponsored health insurance themselves. Between 1996 and 1998, an average of more than three million Texans between 18 and 64 years of age were uninsured. Low-income children are more likely to be enrolled in state health insurance programs when coverage is offered to the entire family, rather than to children alone. H.B. 835 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a buy-in option to allow families without access to health benefits coverage to purchase coverage for all family members under CHIP.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. (a) Defines "commission."

(b) Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (commission) to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a buy-in option to allow families without access to health benefits coverage to purchase health benefits coverage for all family members under the state child health plan under Chapter 62, Health and Safety Code.

(c) Requires the commission, in order to determine the feasibility of the buy-in option, to examine certain topics.

(d) Requires the commission, in conducting the study, to consult consumer groups interested in the private market for health benefits plan coverage and members of the issuers of health benefits plan coverage in the private market, including agents and actuaries. Authorizes the commission to consult other groups in conducting the study.

(e) Requires the commission, not later than November 1, 2002, to submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives a written report containing the findings of the study.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.