

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R12802 E

H.B. 849
By: Coleman (Gallegos)
Business & Commerce
5/10/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

The 75th Legislature significantly increased health benefit coverage for those who suffer from mental illnesses by requiring certain health maintenance organizations and group insurance plans to provide coverage for medical treatment of serious mental illnesses. However, these changes did not extend coverage to those suffering from eating disorders, illnesses mainly affecting women ages 10 to 20. Statistically, one to four percent of women suffer from anorexia or bulimia in their lifetime and without treatment up to 20 percent of people with a serious eating disorder die. H.B. 849 includes anorexia and bulimia in the definition of a "serious mental illness" to extend insurance coverage to include such medical conditions.

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. Amends Section 1(1), Article 3.51-14, Insurance Code, to redefine "serious mental illness."

SECTION 2. (a) Requires the Sunset Advisory Commission, on or before September 1, 2006, to conduct a study to make certain determinations.

(b) Requires the Sunset Advisory Commission to report its findings under this section to the legislature on or before January 1, 2007.

(c) Requires the Texas Department of Insurance and any other state agency to cooperate with the Sunset Advisory Commission as necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001. Makes application of this Act prospective.