

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 691
By: Madla
Health & Human Services
4/9/2003
Committee Report (Amended)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) does not review telemedicine services. S.B. 691 requires HHSC to review telemedicine programs to integrate them into the entire health care delivery system.

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 Chapter 531B, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 531.02173 and 531.02174, as follows:

Sec. 531.02173. ALIGNMENT OF MEDICAID TELEMEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES WITH MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES. (a) Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to periodically review policies regarding reimbursement under the Medicaid program for telemedicine medical services to identify variations between permissible reimbursement under that program and reimbursement available to providers under the Medicare program.

(b) Requires HHSC, to the extent practicable, and notwithstanding any other state law, after conducting a review under Subsection (a), to modify rules and procedures applicable to reimbursement under the Medicaid program for telemedicine medical services as necessary to provide for a reimbursement system that is comparable to the reimbursement system for those services under the Medicare program.

(c) Requires HHSC to perform its duties under this section with assistance from the telemedicine advisory committee established under Section 531.02172.

Sec. 531.02174. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY REGARDING TELEMEDICINE MEDICAL SERVICES. (a) Authorizes HHSC, in addition to the authority granted by other law regarding telemedicine medical services, to review rules and procedures applicable to reimbursement of telemedicine medical services provided through any government-funded health program subject to the commission's oversight.

(b) Authorizes HHSC to modify rules and procedures described by Subsection (a) as necessary to ensure that reimbursement for telemedicine medical services is provided in a cost-effective manner and only in circumstances in which the provision of those services is clinically effective.

(c) Provides that this section does not affect HHSC's authority or duties under other law regarding reimbursement of telemedicine medical services under the Medicaid program.

SECTION 2. Requires the agency affected by the provision, if before implementing any

provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, to request the waiver or authorization and authorizes it to delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2003.

LIST OF AMENDMENTS

Committee Amendment NO. 1

On page 1, line 17, strike “shall”, and substitute “may”.