

**SUBJECT:** Requiring health plan directories to include network facility providers

**COMMITTEE:** Insurance — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Oliverson, A. Johnson, Cain, Cortez, Harris, Julie Johnson, Paul, Perez

0 nays

1 absent — Hull

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tim Morstad, AARP; Charles Miller, Texas 2036; Carl Isett, Texas Association of Benefit Administrators; Matt Abel, Texas Association of Business; Shannon Meroney, Texas Association of Health Underwriters; Ware Wendell, Texas Watch)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Debra Diaz-Lara, Texas Department of Insurance)

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that providing patients with access to a directory of facility-based network providers available to a patient in that facility could help to reduce surprise billings for patients.

**DIGEST:** HB 1902 would require health plan issuers to expand facility directories to include network providers delivering services in facilities covered under the health plan. The current requirement for health plan issuers to provide plan enrollees with a directory of network physicians delivering care in a covered facility would be expanded to include all network providers delivering care in the facility. Insurers would be required to add additional directory headings for certain providers identified in the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023 and would require health benefit plan issuers to update the issuer's website and physician and

provider directories to comply with the bill's requirements no later than January 1, 2024.