

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2304
By: Coleman (Zaffirini)
Human Services
5/5/1999
Committee Report (Amended)

DIGEST

Currently, psychologists, social workers, and licensed professional counselors are eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursement through their service in family counseling. However, licensed marriage and family therapists are not eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. The Health and Human Services Commission or an agency operating part of a medical assistance program can ensure that a recipient of medical assistance is authorized to select a licensed marriage and family therapist to perform any health care service or procedure covered under the medical assistance program if the selected therapist is authorized by law to perform the service or procedure. H.B. 2304 would require that a recipient of medical assistance is authorized to select the therapist to perform a service or procedure covered under the program.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 2304 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to assure that certain providers of family counseling services may qualify under the medical assistance program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 32.027(e), Human Resources Code, to require the Health and Human Services Commission or any agency operating part of the medical assistance program to assure that a recipient of medical assistance is authorize to select a licensed marriage and family therapist to perform any health care or procedure covered under the program if the selected therapist is legally authorized to perform the service or procedure.

SECTION 2. Requires an agency affected by this Act and that requires a waiver to request the waiver or authorization, and may delay implementation, therefore, of the provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 3. Effective date: January 1, 2000.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 3.

Changes the effective date from September 1, 1999 to January 1, 2000.