

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1920
By: Capelo (Zaffirini)
Health & Human Services
5/21/2003
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Texas has participated in the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program since its inception in 1994. Children eligible for VFC include those of Native American or Native Alaskan heritage and children on Medicaid. Texas VFC also provides vaccines for children covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and underinsured children (children whose insurance company does not provide coverage for vaccines). According to the Texas Department of Health, 70 percent of children born in Texas qualify for VFC. At present, the fee paid to physicians for administering vaccines is below the cost of providing the vaccine. H.B. 1920 attempts to increase awareness of the Vaccines for Children program and make the application process less of a burden for providers.

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 Subchapter A, Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 161.0095, as follows:

Sec. 161.0095. PROVIDER EDUCATION PROGRAMS. Requires the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to develop continuing education programs for providers relating to immunizations and the vaccines for children program operated by TDH under authority of 42 U.S.C. Section 1396s, as amended. Requires TDH to establish a work group to assist TDH in developing the continuing education programs and materials. Requires the work group to include physicians, nurses, TDH representatives, representatives of managed care organizations that provide health care services under Chapter 533, Government Code, representatives of health plan providers that provide health care services under Chapter 62, and members of the public.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, by adding Section 531.063, as follows:

Sec. 531.063. VACCINES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM PROVIDER ENROLLMENT AND REIMBURSEMENT. (a) Defines "vaccines for children program."

(b) Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to ensure that a provider can enroll in the vaccines for children program on the same form the provider completes to apply as a Medicaid health care provider.

(c) Requires HHSC to allow providers to report vaccines administered under the vaccines for children program to the immunization registry established under Section 161.007, Health and Safety Code, and to use the immunization registry, including individually identifiable information in accordance with state and federal law, to determine whether a child has received an immunization.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2003.