

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R7605 JTS-D

S.B. 983
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Health and Human Services
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, hospice and home care services are not available under the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Acute inpatient stays are significantly extended due to limited resources. Also, emergency rooms are utilized for health problems that could be handled by a visiting nurse allowing the child and family to remain at home. Children who have coverage under CHIP and are in the final stages of terminal illness currently have no other option but to be hospitalized during the final days or weeks of their life consuming significantly higher cost health care than home-based hospice care.

As proposed, S.B. 983 reinstates home health and hospice benefits as part of the health care options under CHIP. Home health and hospice benefits would be available to children enrolled in CHIP and their families who live with complex chronic medical conditions, life-threatening conditions, and terminal illnesses. The cost to the state would be lessened by providing services in a community-based setting rather than in an intensive care unit.

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 62.151, Health and Safety Code, by adding Subsection (g), to require a child health plan to provide home health care services and hospice services as covered benefits.

SECTION 2. Authorizes delay of implementation of any provision of the Act until any necessary federal waivers or authorizations are obtained.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2005.