

I. Agency Related

SB 2214 **Schwertner**

Caption: Relating to state fiscal matters related to health and human services and state agencies administering health and human services programs.

This article applies to any state agency that receives an appropriation under **Article II** of the General Appropriations Act. Notwithstanding any other statute of this state, the state agency to which this article applies is authorized to reduce or recover expenditures by:

- (1) consolidating any reports or publications the agency is required to make and filing or delivering any of those reports or publications exclusively by electronic means;
- (2) extending the effective period of any license, permit, or registration the agency grants or administers;
- (3) entering into a contract with another governmental entity or with a private vendor to carry out any of the agency's duties;
- (4) **adopting additional eligibility requirements** for persons who receive benefits under any law the agency administers to ensure that those **benefits are received by the most deserving persons** consistent with the purposes for which the benefits are provided;
- (5) providing that any communication between the agency and another person and any document required to be delivered to or by the agency, including any application, notice, billing statement, receipt, or certificate, may be made or delivered by e-mail or through the Internet; and
- (6) **adopting and collecting fees or charges** to cover any costs the agency incurs in performing its lawful functions.
- (7) **modifying and streamlining processes used in:** a) **the conduct of eligibility determinations for programs** under Chapter 62, Human Resources Code (child health plan program); Chapter 31 Human Resources Code (Medicaid program); Chapter 33, Human Resources Code (SNAP); and Chapter 533 (Texas Medicaid program) by or under the direction of HHSC; b) provision of services under DFPS, DADS, children and other persons with disabilities under HHSC, and other services provided or programs operated by HHSC or a health and human services agency defined under Section 531.001, Government Code.

II. Medicaid Managed Care

SB 1927 **Kolkhorst**

Caption: Relating to requiring HHSC **to evaluate and implement changes to the Medicaid program to make the program more cost-effective, increase competition among providers, and improve health outcomes for recipients.**

HHSC shall:

- Establish a range of rates within which a MCO must bid during a competitive bidding process to contract with HHSC to arrange for or provide a managed care plan.
- Assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of contracting with MCOs to arrange for or provide managed care plans to recipients **throughout the state instead of on a regional basis.**
- A MCO participating in Medicaid must share with HHSC any money recovered by the MCO as a result of a fraud investigation of or a recoupment of an overpayment or debt from a network provider or recipient.
- To the extent funds are appropriated,
 - identify and evaluate barriers preventing Medicaid recipients enrolled in the STAR + PLUS Medicaid managed care program or a **home and community-based services waiver program** from choosing the consumer directed services option and develop recommendations for increasing the percentage of Medicaid recipients enrolled in those programs who choose the consumer directed services option; and
 - study the feasibility of establishing a community attendant registry to assist Medicaid recipients enrolled in the community attendant services program in locating providers.

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- Conduct a study of the provision of dental services to adults with disabilities under the Medicaid program
- Evaluate delivery models for the provision of services under the Medicaid program based on:
 - cost-effectiveness;
 - competition among providers; and
 - health outcomes for Medicaid recipients as calculated using a clinically based risk adjustment methodology.
- Not later than December 1, 2018, HHSC shall submit a report to the governor, the Legislative Budget Board, and the appropriate standing committees of the senate and the house of representatives containing the results of the evaluation conducted under Subsection (a) of this section, including:
 - a summary of previously submitted reports relating to alternative delivery models for the provision of services under the Medicaid program; and
 - a summary of efforts undertaken by HHSC to make the current delivery models as effective as possible and an assessment of any cost savings achieved by and any improved health outcomes that have resulted from the current delivery models.

[SB 1922](#)

Schwertner

Caption:

Relating to prescription drug benefits in the Medicaid managed care program.

[SB 2128](#)

Nelson

Caption:

Relating to the Health and Human Services Commission's procurement and oversight of managed care organization contracts serving individuals in Texas Medicaid with serious mental illness.

III. Long Term Care Services & Supports & Related

[SB 1997](#)

Watson

Caption:

Relating to establishing a pilot program for professional support service provider services for **persons who are deaf-blind**.

[SB 2023](#)

Zaffirini

Caption:

Relating to the implementation of the community living options information process for residents [at least 22 years of age] of certain facilities [defined as a facility **with at least nine beds that is licensed under Chapter 252, Health and Safety Code, and is operated by a private entity; i.e., an ICF/IID with at least 9 beds.**]

[SB 2024](#)

Zaffirini

Caption:

Relating to the personal needs allowance for participants in home and community-based waiver programs.

States that the HHSC executive commissioner shall adopt rules to provide that each participant in a home and community-based services waiver program is entitled to receive a personal needs allowance of not less than \$85 of the participant's monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (42 U.S.C. Section 1381 et seq.).

[SB 2025](#)

Zaffirini

Caption:

Relating to the establishment of a peer support program for residents of SSLCs.

[SB 2040](#)

Zaffirini

Caption:

Relating to the content of an application for Medicaid. [Companion [HB 1158](#) - Davis]

Requires HHSC to amend application to include questions about how a person chooses to receive information from a MCO and a question about whether a woman is pregnant.

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[SB 2077](#)

Zaffirini

Caption: Relating to the provision of protective services and the conduct of certain investigations through the adult protective services program of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

IV. Employment & Education

[SB 2165](#)

Zaffirini

Caption: Relating to day habitation services for individuals with an intellectual disability; imposing and administrative penalty.

- Requires HHSC to establish by rule a registration process by which a DH provider may register with the commission if the DH provider can demonstrate that it follows safety guidelines and minimum service requirements.
- The guidelines must require that the setting and services meet the federal requirements under 42 CFR Sections 441.301 (c) (4) and 441.530 (a).
- Requires that a Medicaid waiver provider: a) must make a good faith effort to provide employment services of DH services to a Medicaid waiver participant who wishes to participate in employment services or DH; b) must NOT contract with a DH provider unless the DH provider is registered; and c) must develop and implement a procedure by which a Medicaid participant may pool Medicaid funds dedicated for day services as a group.
- HHSC may impose an administrative penalty against a Medicaid waiver provider who violates this section.
- A Medicaid participant's service planning team shall inform the person that employment services or day habilitation services are optional and the participant can choose to participate or not.
- A day habilitation provider may NOT provide services at the same location as a sheltered workshop or an employment setting in which persons are paid less than minimum wage.
- An employer of record of a Medicaid waiver participant may not provide DH services to the person.

[SB 2027](#)

Rodríguez

Caption: Relating to a study to evaluate by region training and employment opportunities in this state for individuals with an intellectual disability. [Companion [HB 3341](#) - Moody]

[SB 2021](#)

Zaffirini

Caption: Relating to wage requirements for community rehabilitation programs participating in the purchasing from people with disabilities program. [Companion [HB 2409](#) - Raney]

[SB 2022](#)

Zaffirini

Caption: Relating to competitive and integrated employment of persons with disabilities. [Companion [HB 2732](#) - Lucio]

[SB 1861](#)

Lucio

Caption: Relating to a comprehensive plan for increasing and improving the workforce in this state that serves persons with mental health and substance use issues.

V. Other

[SB 2125](#)

Zaffirini

Caption: Relating to the period for which a defendant with an intellectual disability who is found incompetent to stand trial may be civilly committed before the court holds a hearing to determine whether the defendant's release is appropriate.