

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1313
By: Carona
Health & Human Services
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, under Chapter 35, Health and Safety Code, the chronically ill and disabled children's services program (program) provides medical and related services to children with certain diseases or medical conditions. The program provides eligible children early identification, diagnosis and evaluation, rehabilitation, development and improvement services. Section 35.004, Health and Safety Code, specifies that the Texas Board of Health (board) shall approve "physicians, dentists, facilities, specialty centers, and other providers" to participate and provide services under the program. The board has approved, by rule, "other providers," to include podiatrists, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists, medical supply and/or equipment companies, transportation companies and providers, meal and lodging facilities, and funeral homes. Upon referral and order by the treating physician or dentist, licensed dietitians may provide nutritional services to eligible children in in-patient settings. Program children frequently have special dietary needs in addition to their medical conditions or treatment regimens. Licensed dietitians can only provide such services through an intermediary who is an "approved provider" in out-patient settings. S.B. 1313 would require the board to approve licensed dietitians to directly participate in the chronically ill and disabled children's services program.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1313 requires the Texas Board of Health to approve licensed dietitians to participate in the chronically ill and disabled children's services 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 35.004(b), Health and Safety Code, to require the Board of Health (board) to approve, among others, licensed dietitians to participate in the chronically ill and disabled children's services program according to the criteria and following the procedures prescribed by the board.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.