

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 1586
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Human Services
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, the state has no voucher program for payment of certain Medicaid-funded services for persons with disabilities. The Comptroller's Texas Performance Review has recommended such a program. S.B. 1586 would set forth provisions and regulations for the establishment of a voucher program in which vouchers are used for payment of certain Medicaid-funded services provided to adults with disabilities.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1586 sets forth provisions and regulations for the establishment of a voucher program in which certain vouchers are used for payment of Medicaid-funded services provided to adults with disabilities.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Health and Human Services Commission in SECTION 1 (Section 531.051(b), Chapter 531B, Government Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 531B, Government Code, by adding Section 531.051, as follows:

Sec. 531.051. **VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR PAYMENT OF CERTAIN MEDICAID-FUNDED SERVICES.** Defines "consumer," "personal assistance services," and "respite services." Requires Health and Human Services Commission (commission), by rule, to develop and oversee the implementation of a program in which the use of vouchers is established as a payment option for the delivery of certain Medicaid-funded services to persons with disabilities. Sets forth the actions the commission must provide in adopting rules for the voucher program. Sets forth the programs in which the voucher program must be implemented. Authorizes the Texas Department of Health to use vouchers under the program for Medicaid long-term services in managed care and private duty nursing services within the comprehensive care program. Requires each human services agency in which the program is implemented and the comptroller of public accounts to provide information to the commission as necessary to facilitate the development and implementation of the program.

SECTION 2. Requires the commission, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, to develop outcome measures to determine the cost-effectiveness of the voucher program required by Section 531.051, Government Code, as added by this Act. Requires the commission to submit a report on its findings and recommendations not later than September 1, 2000, to the legislature.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.