

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R11833 CLG-D

C.S.S.B. 1586
By: Zaffirini
Human Services
4/22/1999
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Currently, the state has a pilot voucher program for payment of certain services for persons with disabilities. The Comptroller's Texas Performance Review has recommended such a program. C.S.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 services provided to persons with disabilities.

PURPOSE

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

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 531B, Government Code, by adding Sections 531.051 and 531.052, as follows:

Sec. 531.051. VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR PAYMENT OF CERTAIN SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. Defines "consumer," "personal assistance services," and "respite services." Requires Health and Human Services Commission (commission), 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 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 may be implemented. Requires each health and 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.

Sec. 531.052. VOUCHER PAYMENT PROGRAM WORK GROUP. Provides that a work group is created to assist the commission in certain actions. Sets forth the work group's composition. Requires a majority of work group members to be consumers, advocates, or providers described by Subsection (b). Provides that a member of the work group serves at the will of the appointing agency and receives no additional compensation for service. Requires the commissioner to appoint certain members to serve as officers of the work group. Requires the work group to meet at the call of the presiding officer. Provides that the work group is not subject to Chapter 2110, Government Code. Provides that this section expires September 1, 2003.

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, 2002, to the legislature.

SECTION 3. Requires the commission, or other state agency to request certain authorization, and authorizes the commission or the agency to delay implementing a provision until authorization is granted, under certain conditions.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Relating clause.

Amends the relating clause to delete a reference to Medicaid-funded services.

SECTION 1.

Amends Section 531.051, Government Code, to create a new heading, add text regarding state-funded services, persons with disabilities, and Section 531.052, Government Code. Adds text regarding the commission's responsibilities while adopting rules. Authorizes, rather than requires, the voucher program to be implemented in a certain manner, and clarifies that manner. Deletes proposed Subsection (e), and redesignates subsequent subsections.

Adds Section 531.052, Government Code, regarding the voucher payment program work group.

SECTION 2.

Extends a report submission deadline by two years.

SECTION 3.

Adds text regarding a waiver or authorization for the commission.

SECTION 4.

Redesignates existing SECTION 3 as 4.