

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.C.R. 57
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Health & Human Services
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Engrossed

DIGEST

Federal funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), enacted in 1997 by the United States Congress, is provided through state-specific, annual allotments. Several states have been unable to use all of their allotments, while other states spent all available funds. Absent a statutory change, states with excess funds from prior years would lose millions in funding and put underserved children's health in jeopardy. The State of Texas's two-year appropriations cycle delayed the initiation of the SCHIP program, presenting barriers to the full utilization of early-year SCHIP allotments. The State of Texas began the 2002-2003 biennium enrolling more children in SCHIP faster than any other state in the country. The State of Texas, specifically, stands to lose \$248 million in unspent SCHIP funds.

PURPOSE

Provides that the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation amending Title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend the availability of allotments for fiscal years 1998 through 2001 under the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Provides that the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record of the United States of America.