

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
84R1010 KJE-D

H.B. 606
By: Davis, Sarah (Huffman)
Health & Human Services
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Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The use of prenatal surgical procedures to reverse chronic, life-long health conditions is showing much promise at fetal centers across the country. Medical facilities in Texas have been performing corrective procedures and conducting research to advance further procedures into the trial phase. Interested parties assert that, with the potential to completely correct a debilitating, chronic health condition in-utero, such procedures could provide significant cost savings to the Texas Medicaid program. H.B. 606 provides for a study to determine which in-utero procedures will have a positive fiscal impact on the Texas Medicaid program.

H.B. 606 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to conduct a study to evaluate the benefits of prenatal surgical procedures to treat birth defects. The bill requires the procedures studied to include fetoscopic placental laser ablation, maternal-fetal surgery, and any other type of prenatal surgical procedure that is or becomes the standard of practice for treating a birth defect. The bill requires the study to analyze the difference in average total cost to the Medicaid program, private health benefit plan coverage, and individuals and other payors between conducting a prenatal surgical procedure and a postnatal procedure to treat a birth defect, including any continuing treatments needed after either procedure, and to analyze any improvement in survival rates, long-term outcomes, and quality of life for children with birth defects following a prenatal surgical procedure as compared to a postnatal procedure to treat a birth defect. The bill requires HHSC, not later than December 1, 2016, to submit a written report on the results of the study to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, House Committee on Public Health, and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. The bill's provisions expire September 1, 2017.

H.B. 606 amends current law relating to a study on the benefits of prenatal surgical procedures to treat birth defects.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. (a) Defines "birth defect" and "commission."

(b) Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to conduct a study to evaluate the benefits of prenatal surgical procedures to treat birth defects. Requires that the procedures studied include fetoscopic placental laser ablation, maternal-fetal surgery, and any other type of prenatal surgical procedure that is or becomes the standard of practice for treating a birth defect.

(c) Requires that the study analyze:

(1) the difference in average total cost to the Medicaid program, private health benefit plan coverage, and individuals and other payors between conducting a prenatal surgical procedure and a postnatal procedure to treat a birth defect, including any continuing treatments needed after either procedure; and

(2) any improvement in survival rates, long-term outcomes, and quality of life for children with birth defects following a prenatal surgical procedure as compared to a postnatal procedure to treat a birth defect.

(d) Requires HHSC, not later than December 1, 2016, to submit a written report on the results of the study to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, House Committee on Public Health, and Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

(e) Provides that this Act expires September 1, 2017.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2015.