

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
87R20660 JG-D

C.S.S.B. 171
By: Blanco
Health & Human Services
4/27/2021
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

It has been reported that Medicaid providers are reimbursed at a rate well below the cost of the services provided. There are concerns that this underpayment means that Texans who rely on Medicaid have less access to community-based health care services, which are less costly than hospitals and emergency departments, because community-based providers are typically less likely to cover the costs of uncompensated and undercompensated care.

S.B. 171 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to prepare and submit a written report regarding provider reimbursement rates and access to care in the Medicaid program to the legislature by December 1, 2022.

(Original Author's / Sponsor's Statement of Intent)

C.S.S.B. 171 amends current law relating to a report regarding Medicaid reimbursement rates, supplemental payment amounts, and access to care.

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 "commission" and "supplemental payment amount."

(b) Requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to prepare a written report regarding provider reimbursement rates, supplemental payment amounts paid to providers, and access to care under Medicaid. Requires HHSC to collaborate with the state Medicaid managed care advisory committee to develop and define the scope of the research for the report. Requires that the report include certain information.

(c) Requires HHSC, not later than December 1, 2022, to prepare and submit to the legislature the report described by Subsection (b) of this section. Provides that, notwithstanding that subsection, HHSC is not required to include in the report any information HHSC determines is proprietary.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2021.