

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 2134

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a plan to increase the use of telemedicine medical services and telehealth services in this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 1001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. PLAN TO EXPAND TELEMEDICINE MEDICAL SERVICES AND
TELEHEALTH SERVICES

Sec. 1001.251. ACTION PLAN. (a) The department, with the assistance of the Texas Hospital Association, the Texas Medical Association, teaching hospitals, and the statewide health coordinating council, shall develop and implement an action plan to:

(1) expand the use of telemedicine medical services, telehealth services, and related mobile applications for those services to increase access by residents of this state to health care providers; and

(2) increase the availability of critical medical care and health care services to residents in this state in areas determined by the department to be medically underserved, including the border region and rural areas.

(b) The department shall consult with health care providers, advocacy groups, relevant federal agencies, and any other interested persons the department considers necessary to

develop the action plan required by this section.

Sec. 1001.252. PLAN REQUIREMENTS. (a) The action plan developed under Section 1001.251 must include:

(1) short-term and long-term plan recommendations, including policy initiatives and reforms necessary to implement the plan;

(2) statutory and administrative changes necessary to implement the plan; and

(3) options for the funding necessary to implement the plan.

(b) The department shall:

(1) not later than September 1, 2019:

(A) submit to the governor and the legislature the recommendations, the statutory and administrative changes, and the funding options described in Subsection (a) and short-term and long-term plans to implement those recommendations, changes, and options; and

(B) begin implementing the short-term plan;

(2) not later than September 1, 2021, fully implement the short-term plan;

(3) not later than September 1, 2027, fully implement the long-term plan; and

(4) include the short-term and long-term plans in the material the department prepares for consideration of the commission in connection with the update of the strategic plan for health and human services under Section [531.022](#), Government Code.

Sec. 1001.253. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires

1 September 1, 2027.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.