

By: Price

H.B. No. 1486

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to peer specialists, peer services, and the provision of those services under the medical assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.0999 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.0999. PEER SPECIALISTS. With input from mental health and substance use peer specialists and other relevant stakeholders, the commission shall develop and the executive commissioner shall adopt:

(1) rules that establish training requirements for peer specialists so that they are able to provide services to persons with mental illness and services to persons with substance use conditions;

(2) rules that establish certification and supervision requirements for peer specialists;

(3) rules that define the scope of services that peer specialists may provide;

(4) rules that distinguish peer services from other services that a person must hold a license to provide; and

(5) any other rules necessary to protect the health and safety of persons receiving peer services.

SECTION 2. Section 32.024, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subsection (kk) to read as follows:

1 (kk) The commission in its rules and standards governing the
2 scope of services provided under the medical assistance program
3 shall include peer services provided by certified peer specialists
4 to the extent permitted by federal law.

5 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
6 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
7 Services Commission shall adopt the rules required by Section
8 531.0999, Government Code, as added by this Act.

9 SECTION 4. If before implementing any provision of this Act
10 a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a
11 federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision,
12 the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or
13 authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the
14 waiver or authorization is granted.

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