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IDEA RGC High School

Senate Committee
Health & Human Services

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House Committee
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Mother & Baby Health Act

HB 3 – SB 5

Bill Analysis

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Over the last several years, policymakers, researchers, and the public have focused considerable attention on the number of maternal deaths and adverse health outcomes resulting from pregnancy and delivery in Texas. For example, the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and the Department of State Health Services jointly submitted a report in 2022 that found that 44% of maternal death cases reviewed occurring within one year of pregnancy were identified as pregnancy-related and that there was a chance for preventability in 90% of the reviewed pregnancy-related deaths.

Additionally, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission has recommended that Medicaid coverage be provided for 12 months postpartum, and the U.S. Congress enacted legislation in 2021 giving states the option to provide 12 months of coverage through a state Medicaid plan amendment. This bill seeks to provide for 12 months of postpartum Medicaid coverage for women in Texas.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 32.024(l-1), Human Resources Code, to require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to continue to provide medical assistance to a woman who is eligible for medical assistance for pregnant women for a period of not less than 12 months that begins on the last day of the woman's pregnancy and ends on the last day of the month in which the 12-month period ends in accordance with Section 1902(e)(16), Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1396a(e)(16)).

SECTION 2. Requires the executive commissioner of HHSC, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, to, in accordance with Section 1902(e)(16), Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1396a(e)(16)), seek from the appropriate federal agency an amendment to the state's Medicaid state plan to implement Section 32.024(l-1)(2) (relating to requiring HHSC to continue to provide medical assistance to a woman who is eligible for medical assistance for pregnant women for a

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period of not less than six months following the date the woman delivers or experiences an involuntary miscarriage), Human Resources Code, as added by this Act. Authorizes HHSC to delay implementing this Act until the state plan amendment is approved.

EFFECTIVE DATE
January 1, 2027.