

1-1 By: Hancock, Whitmire S.B. No. 999  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 4, 2021; March 18, 2021, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce;  
 1-4 April 19, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 19, 2021,  
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Hancock	X			
1-9 Nichols	X			
1-10 Campbell	X			
1-11 Creighton	X			
1-12 Johnson	X			
1-13 Menéndez			X	
1-14 Paxton	X			
1-15 Schwertner	X			
1-16 Whitmire	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 999 By: Hancock

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to county and municipal authority and a study regarding  
 1-22 certain medical and health care billing by ambulance service  
 1-23 providers.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Section 113.902(a), Local Government Code, is  
 1-26 amended to read as follows:

1-27 (a) Except as provided by Section 140.013, the [The] county  
 1-28 treasurer shall direct prosecution for the recovery of any debt  
 1-29 owed to the county, as provided by law, and shall supervise the  
 1-30 collection of the debt.

1-31 SECTION 2. Chapter 140, Local Government Code, is amended  
 1-32 by adding Section 140.013 to read as follows:

1-33 Sec. 140.013. BALANCE BILLING FOR COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL  
 1-34 AMBULANCE SERVICES. (a) "Balance billing" means the practice of  
 1-35 charging an enrollee in a health benefit plan to recover from the  
 1-36 enrollee the balance of a health care provider's fee for a service  
 1-37 received by the enrollee from the health care provider that is not  
 1-38 fully reimbursed by the enrollee's health benefit plan.

1-39 (b) A county or municipality may elect to consider a health  
 1-40 benefit plan payment towards a claim for air or ground ambulance  
 1-41 services provided by the county or municipality as payment in full  
 1-42 for those services regardless of the amount the county or  
 1-43 municipality charged for those services.

1-44 (c) A county or municipality may not practice balance  
 1-45 billing for a claim for which the county or municipality makes an  
 1-46 election under Subsection (b).

1-47 SECTION 3. (a) In this section, "department" means the  
 1-48 Texas Department of Insurance.

1-49 (b) The department shall conduct a study on the balance  
 1-50 billing practices of county and municipal ground ambulance service  
 1-51 providers and the variations in prices for county and municipal  
 1-52 ground ambulance services.

1-53 (c) Not later than December 1, 2022, the department shall  
 1-54 provide a written report of the results of the study conducted under  
 1-55 Subsection (b) of this section to the governor, lieutenant  
 1-56 governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and members of  
 1-57 the standing committees of the legislature with primary  
 1-58 jurisdiction over the department.

1-59 (d) This section expires September 1, 2023.

1-60 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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