



House Public Health Committee – Interim Charge 1: Senate Bill 2132

Interim Charge 1: *Interim Charge 1: Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:*

- **SB 2132**, which requires additional information to be provided to new mothers enrolled in HTW. Monitor HHSC's rulemaking process.

Section 1 of Senate Bill (SB) 2132, 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, amends Government Code Sec. 531.0995, which requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to make changes to the eligibility notification letter women receive when they auto-enroll in the Healthy Texas Women (HTW) program when their Medicaid for Pregnant Women coverage ends. The bill requires HHSC to provide:

- More information about the HTW program, including services provided; and
- A list of health care providers located in the same geographical area as where the woman resides.

In addition, the bill requires HHSC to consult with the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (TMMRC) on the following:

- The best time to provide this information to a woman; and
- The manner by which the information should be provided, including the information about available health care providers.

Today, the HHSC eligibility system automatically sends women who are auto-enrolled into HTW from Medicaid for Pregnant Women an eligibility notification letter informing them of their enrollment (See Appendix A: Form TF001W, *Notice of Case Action*) and a form (See Appendix B: H1872, *HTW Opting Out and Reporting Confidential Address*), which provides information about how to withdraw from the HTW program and how to provide a confidential mailing address to HHSC for HTW correspondence.

To comply with Government Code Sec. 531.0995(c)(1), as amended by the bill, additional information about HTW was added to the above correspondence letters in June 2020 including:

- A description of HTW and why the woman was enrolled in the program;
- HTW services provided at no cost to the woman; and
- How to find a provider or see if their current provider accepts HTW.

To implement the requirements regarding provider information listed in Government Code Sec. 531.0995(c)(2), HHSC added standard language to the current notification letter that directs women to go to the HTW website, HealthyTexasWomen.org, to find a HTW certified provider in their area. This is in alignment with how Medicaid shares provider information with clients.

HHSC presented considerations regarding SB 2132 and the correspondence letters to the TMMRC on December 6, 2019 and implemented suggested feedback. Additionally, both current correspondence letters (TF001W and H1872) will be updated in March 2021 to include information about HTW Plus services available to postpartum women.