

CHAPTER 973

H.B. No. 1713

AN ACT

relating to the use of certain drugs for schizophrenics and to the use of facility beds vacated by schizophrenic patients through the use of a certain treatment program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 533, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 533.044 to read as follows:

Sec. 533.044. USE OF CERTAIN DRUGS FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS. (a) The department may place on a clozapine treatment plan each patient in a state hospital for whom the treatment is medically feasible and appropriate. The department may place a patient on a treatment plan using a drug other than clozapine if the drug produces results that are similar to or better than clozapine in treating schizophrenics.

(b) If a patient in a state hospital responds to a treatment plan required or authorized by Subsection (a) to the extent that the patient can be discharged from the hospital, the department may:

(1) assist the patient in applying for disability benefits and for Medicaid if the patient is potentially eligible;

(2) place the patient in a community setting with continuing drug treatments and with medical monitoring;

(3) provide or ensure that the patient is provided supportive housing, rehabilitation services, and job placement, as appropriate; and

(4) provide outpatient care at state hospitals or require a local mental health authority to provide outpatient care, as appropriate.

(c) The department may use facility beds vacated by patients discharged through the use of a treatment plan allowed by Subsection (a) for other appropriate uses.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 1993.

SECTION 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on May 4, 1993, by a non-record vote; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1713 on May 24, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 1993, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved June 19, 1993.

Effective Sept. 1, 1993.