

HB 2231 -- INSURANCE PAYMENTS FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

SPONSOR: Allen

This bill changes the laws regarding funding of the First Steps program. Currently, a health carrier or group of carriers affiliated by or under common ownership or control may make payments during a calendar year to the Part C early intervention system for services provided to children covered by the Part C early intervention system. The payments must not exceed 0.05% of the direct written premium for health benefit plans as reported to the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration on the health carrier's most recently filed annual financial statement.

The bill removes this option and requires a carrier or group of carriers affiliated by or under common ownership or control to directly pay the Part C early intervention system by January 31st of the calendar year on behalf of all of the carrier's or carriers' health benefit plan or plans providing coverage under these provisions. The payment amount must either be an amount equal to 0.05% of the direct written premium for health benefit plans as reported to the Department on the health carrier's most recently filed annual financial statement or \$500,000, whichever is less, and the payment must constitute full and complete satisfaction of the health benefit plan's obligation for the calendar year.