



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2001

LCO No. 6914

Offered by:

REP. GERRATANA, 23rd Dist.
REP. MCCLUSKEY, 20th Dist.
REP. DONOVAN, 84th Dist.
REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.
REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6430

File No. 345

Cal. No. 256

"AN ACT ENSURING HEALTH CARE COVERAGE UNDER THE HUSKY PLAN FOR CERTAIN ADOPTED CHILDREN."

1 Strike section 2 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

2 "Sec. 2. Subdivision (22) of section 17b-290 of the general statutes is
3 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (22) "Qualified entity" means any entity: (A) Eligible for payments
5 under a state plan approved under Medicaid and which provides
6 medical services under the HUSKY Plan, Part A, or [is authorized to
7 determine eligibility of (i) a child to participate in a Head Start
8 program under the Head Start Act, (ii) a child to receive child care
9 services for which financial assistance is provided under the Child
10 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, or (iii) a child to
11 receive assistance under WIC; and (B) that is determined by the

12 commissioner to be capable of making the determinations specified in
13 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision] (B) is a qualified entity, as
14 defined in 42 USC 1396r-1a, as amended by Section 708 of Public Law
15 106-554 and that is determined by the commissioner to be capable of
16 making the determination of eligibility. The commissioner shall
17 provide qualified entities with such forms as are necessary for an
18 application to be made on behalf of a child under the HUSKY Plan,
19 Part A and information on how to assist parents, guardians and other
20 persons in completing and filing such forms.

21 Sec. 3. Subsection (h) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
22 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

23 (h) The commissioner shall enter into a contract with an entity to be
24 a single point of entry servicer for applicants and enrollees under the
25 HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. The servicer shall jointly market both
26 Part A and Part B together as the HUSKY Plan. Such servicer shall
27 develop and implement public information and outreach activities
28 with community programs. Such servicer shall electronically transmit
29 data with respect to enrollment and disenrollment in the HUSKY Plan,
30 Part B to the commissioner who may transmit such data to the
31 Children's Health Council.

32 Sec. 4. Subsection (k) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
33 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

34 (k) Not more than twelve months after the determination of
35 eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B and
36 annually thereafter, the commissioner or the servicer, as the case may
37 be, shall determine if the child continues to be eligible for the plan. The
38 commissioner or the servicer shall mail [a] an application form to each
39 participant in the plan for the purposes of obtaining information to
40 make a determination on eligibility. To the extent permitted by federal
41 law, in determining eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part
42 A and Part B with respect to family income, the commissioner or the
43 servicer shall rely upon information provided in such form by the

44 participant unless the commissioner or the servicer has reason to
45 believe that such information is inaccurate or incomplete. The
46 determination of eligibility shall be coordinated with health plan open
47 enrollment periods.

48 Sec. 5. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 17b-299 of the general
49 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

50 (b) An application may be disapproved if it is determined that a
51 child to be covered under the HUSKY Plan, Part B was covered by an
52 employer-sponsored insurance within the last [six] two months. If the
53 commissioner determines that the time period specified in this
54 subsection is insufficient to effectively deter applicants or employers of
55 applicants from discontinuing employer-sponsored dependent
56 coverage for the purpose of participation in the HUSKY Plan, Part B,
57 the commissioner may extend such period for a maximum of an
58 additional [six] two months.

59 (c) An application may be approved in cases where prior employer-
60 sponsored coverage ended less than [six] two months prior to the
61 determination of eligibility for reasons unrelated to the availability of
62 the HUSKY Plan, Part B, including, but not limited to:

63 (1) Loss of employment due to factors other than voluntary
64 termination;

65 (2) Death of a parent;

66 (3) Change to a new employer that does not provide an option for
67 dependent coverage;

68 (4) Change of address so that no employer-sponsored coverage is
69 available;

70 (5) Discontinuation of health benefits to all employees of the
71 applicant's employer;

72 (6) Expiration of the coverage periods established by the

73 Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, (P.L. 99-272)
74 as amended from time to time, (COBRA);

75 (7) Self-employment;

76 (8) Termination of health benefits due to a long-term disability;

77 (9) Termination of dependent coverage due to an extreme economic
78 hardship on the part of either the employee or the employer, as
79 determined by the commissioner; or

80 (10) Substantial reduction in either lifetime medical benefits or
81 benefit category available to an employee and dependents under an
82 employer's health care plan.

83 Sec. 6. (NEW) The Commissioner of Social Services may seek a
84 waiver, if required, under Title XXI of the Social Security Act to
85 authorize the use of funds received under said title to promote the
86 enrollment of children in the HUSKY Plan who are eligible for benefits
87 under other income-based assistance programs including, but not
88 limited to, free or reduced school lunch programs.

89 Sec. 7. (NEW) (a) To the extent permitted by federal law, the
90 Commissioners of Social Services and Education shall jointly establish
91 procedures for the sharing of information contained in applications for
92 free and reduced price meals under the National School Lunch
93 Program for the purpose of determining whether children
94 participating in such program are eligible for coverage under the
95 HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. The Commissioner of Social Services
96 shall take all actions necessary to ensure that children identified as
97 eligible for the HUSKY Plan are able to enroll in such plan.

98 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall establish procedures
99 whereby an individual may apply for the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part
100 B, at the same time such individual applies for the National School
101 Lunch Program.

102 Sec. 8. (NEW) The Commissioner of Social Services, in determining

103 if an individual continues to be eligible for the HUSKY Plan, Part A or
104 Part B, shall determine whether such individual is a recipient of a child
105 care subsidy under section 17b-749 of the general statutes, food stamps
106 under the food stamp program pursuant to the Food Stamp Act of
107 1977 or benefits under any other program administered by the
108 Department of Social Services for the purpose of ascertaining whether
109 the department has information necessary for the redetermination of
110 eligibility under the HUSKY Plan. In the event such information is
111 available, the commissioner shall use such information in such
112 redetermination.

113 Sec. 9. This act shall take effect from its passage, except that sections
114 2 to 8, inclusive, shall take effect July 1, 2001."