



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Amendment

LCO No. 6132

Offered by:

REP. GERRATANA, 23rd 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3 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof: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] qualified entity, as defined in 42
14 USC 1396r-1a, as amended by Section 708 of Public Law 106-554. The
15 commissioner shall provide qualified entities with such forms as are

16 necessary for an application to be made on behalf of a child under the
17 HUSKY Plan, Part A and information on how to assist parents,
18 guardians and other persons in completing and filing such forms.

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20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

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

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31 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

32 (k) Not more than twelve months after the determination of
33 eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B and
34 annually thereafter, the commissioner or the servicer, as the case may
35 be, shall determine if the child continues to be eligible for the plan. The
36 commissioner or the servicer shall mail [a] an application form to each
37 participant in the plan for the purposes of obtaining information to
38 make a determination on eligibility. To the extent permitted by federal
39 law, in determining eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part
40 A and Part B with respect to family income, the commissioner or the
41 servicer shall rely upon information provided in such form by the
42 participant unless the commissioner or the servicer has reason to
43 believe that such information is inaccurate or incomplete. To the extent
44 permitted by federal law, if the commissioner determines that a child
45 is no longer eligible for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A due to
46 an increase in family income, such child shall remain eligible for such
47 benefits until the servicer determines eligibility for benefits under the

48 HUSKY Plan, Part B. The determination of eligibility shall be
49 coordinated with health plan open enrollment periods.

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

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

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

65 (1) Loss of employment due to factors other than voluntary
66 termination;

67 (2) Death of a parent;

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

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

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

74 (6) Expiration of the coverage periods established by the
75 Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, (P.L. 99-272)
76 as amended from time to time, (COBRA);

77 (7) Self-employment;

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

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

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

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

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

100 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall establish procedures
101 whereby an individual may apply for the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part
102 B, at the same time such individual applies for the federal Special
103 Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, the
104 National School Lunch Program, the Head Start programs or the child
105 care subsidy program.

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

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

117 Sec. 9. This act shall take effect from its passage, except that sections
118 2 to 8, inclusive, shall take effect July 1, 2001."