



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 314

January Session, 2005

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1157

Senate, April 13, 2005

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF HUSKY PLAN, PART A AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES UNDER HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED WAIVER PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 17b-289 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2005*):

4 (b) Children, caretaker relatives and pregnant women receiving
5 assistance under section 17b-261 or section 17b-277 shall be
6 participants in the HUSKY Plan, Part A and children receiving
7 assistance under sections 17b-289 to 17b-303, inclusive, and section 16
8 of public act 97-1 of the October 29 special session* shall be
9 participants in the HUSKY Plan, Part B. For purposes of marketing and
10 outreach, both parts shall be known as the HUSKY Plan.

11 Sec. 2. Subdivision (13) of section 17b-290 of the general statutes is
12 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

13 1, 2005):

14 (13) "HUSKY Plan, Part A" means assistance provided to children,
 15 caretaker relatives and pregnant women pursuant to section 17b-261 or
 16 section 17b-277.

17 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Commissioner of Social
 18 Services may amend the federal home and community-based service
 19 waivers serving persons with acquired brain injury and persons with
 20 mental retardation to enable such persons eligible for or receiving
 21 medical assistance under section 17b-597 of the general statutes to
 22 receive the services provided under such federally-approved waivers.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	17b-289(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	17b-290(13)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In sections 1 and 2, after "section 17b-261" the phrase "or section 17b-277" was added for accuracy.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect
Department of Social Services	GF - See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill changes the definition of HUSKY A to clarify that adult caretaker and pregnant women also receive benefits under the program. This clarifies current practice and has no fiscal impact.

The bill also allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) to amend a current Medicaid waiver to allow certain individuals with severe disabilities to enroll in the Acquired Brain Injury and Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) home- and community-based waiver programs. As these individuals are already receiving Medicaid services from DSS and department funded services under DMR, no additional service costs will result from this change. Currently, 50% of the cost for services provided under these waivers are reimbursable under Medicaid. To the extent that enrolling these individuals in the waivers alters the amount of Medicaid reimbursement that can be received from existing services, a revenue gain may result.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 1157

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF HUSKY PLAN, PART A AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES UNDER HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED WAIVER PROGRAMS**SUMMARY:**

This bill permits the commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS) to amend the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) home- and community-based services (HCBS) waivers to enable people enrolled in the Medicaid for Employed Disabled (MED) coverage group to participate in those waiver programs. The financial eligibility criteria for the MED group are more liberal than under the waiver programs. Currently, adults in the MED group are eligible for the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) waiver, another DSS-administered HCBS waiver. DSS amended that waiver in 2001 to enable MED enrollees to participate.

The bill also changes the definition of HUSKY A to more accurately reflect that adult caretaker relatives and pregnant women, not just children, receive HUSKY A benefits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

BACKGROUND***Eligibility for MED and Waiver Programs***

By law, certain adults with severe disabilities who are between ages 18 and 65 and can work a minimum number of hours can receive Medicaid, and the financial eligibility criteria are considerably more liberal than they are for other Medicaid coverage groups. For example, their annual adjusted gross income can be up to \$75,000, and they can have liquid assets of \$10,000 if single, or \$15,000 if married.

Although many of these adults may be functionally eligible for the ABI and DMR waivers, financial eligibility for the waiver programs is more restrictive. To qualify for either of these programs, income is limited to

300% of the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) maximum benefit (currently \$1,737 per month for a single person). And liquid assets cannot be more than \$1,600 for one person.

PA 00-213, which also created the MED coverage group, directed DSS to amend the PCA waiver to ensure that both existing and new enrollees would not lose eligibility by virtue of qualifying for the new MED coverage group.

HUSKY A

HUSKY A provides Medicaid-funded health insurance to pregnant women and children in families with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL). It also covers adult caretaker relatives of these children, but the income limit for these adults is generally limited to 100% of the FPL. There is no asset test.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 17 Nay 0