



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 680

January Session, 2007

Substitute Senate Bill No. 246

Senate, May 2, 2007

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) On or before January 1, 2008,
2 the Commissioner of Social Services shall apply for a waiver from the
3 State Children's Health Insurance Program, under Section 1115 of the
4 Social Security Act, 42 USC 1315, as amended from time to time, to
5 provide complementary health care coverage to families with children
6 with special health care needs for services available through HUSKY
7 Plus programs that are not covered by private insurance. Such waiver
8 shall provide complementary health care coverage to families with
9 private insurance and income at or below three hundred per cent of
10 the federal poverty level. Families with private insurance and income
11 above three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level may elect to
12 buy in to the program. The commissioner may prescribe premium and
13 cost sharing requirements for all families participating in the program.
14 Funding for such expanded health care coverage shall be provided

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Department of Social Services	GF - Cost	Significant	Significant

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill directs the Department of Social Services (DSS) to apply for a waiver under the federal SCHIP program. Under this waiver, children with special health care needs would be provided with health coverage to wrap around their private medical insurance. Families with incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level would be eligible, with DSS establishing premium and cost-sharing requirements.

The cost of this proposal will be dependent upon the number of children enrolled in this waiver, which is not specified in the bill. The approximate annual cost of one slot in such a program is \$25,000. Should such a waiver be granted under the SCHIP program, the federal government would reimburse 65% of program costs.

sHB 7077 (the Appropriations Act, as passed by the Appropriations Committee) contains \$625,000 in FY08 and \$5 million in FY09 to implement a 200 slot waiver program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 246*****AN ACT CONCERNING HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services commissioner to apply for a federal waiver to use federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funds to pay for health care services for children that (1) are available under the HUSKY Plus program and (2) are not covered by their family's private insurance. Eligible families must be privately insured and have incomes of 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (currently \$51,510 for a family of three) or less. The bill authorizes families with higher incomes to buy into the program.

The bill allows the commissioner to set premium and cost sharing requirements for all participating families.

The bill specifies that funding for this coverage must be provided through a reallocation of unspent SCHIP funds. The state's SCHIP block grant provides a 65% federal match for most HUSKY B and HUSKY Plus expenditures, as well as funding for older children enrolled in HUSKY A.

In general, children enrolled in their parents' private insurance are not eligible for HUSKY B, regardless of family income.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

BACKGROUND***HUSKY Plus***

By law, families eligible for subsidized HUSKY B coverage (incomes

between 185% and 300% of FPL) can receive supplemental insurance benefits for children with intensive physical health care needs. These HUSKY Plus benefits include services such as adaptive seating, home health aides, and gait analysis. Regular HUSKY B coverage must be exhausted before HUSKY Plus can be accessed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/20/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 47 Nay 0 (04/17/2007)