



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 6158

LCO No. 5165

05165HB06158KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (a) A child who resides in a household with a family income which
5 exceeds one hundred eighty-five per cent of the federal poverty level
6 and does not exceed [three] four hundred per cent of the federal
7 poverty level may be eligible for subsidized benefits under the HUSKY
8 Plan, Part B.

9 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
10 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
11 *1, 2007*):

12 (b) A child who resides in a household with a family income over
13 [three] four hundred per cent of the federal poverty level may be
14 eligible for unsubsidized benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part B.

15 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
16 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
17 *1, 2007*):

18 (e) A newborn child who otherwise meets the eligibility criteria for
19 the HUSKY Plan, Part B shall be eligible for benefits retroactive to his
20 date of birth, provided an application is filed on behalf of the child
21 [within] not later than thirty days [of] after such date. Any uninsured
22 child born in a hospital in this state or in an eligible border state
23 hospital shall be enrolled by an expedited process in the HUSKY Plan,
24 Part B provided (1) the child's family resides in this state, and (2) a
25 parent of such child authorizes enrollment in the program. The
26 commissioner shall pay any premium cost such family would
27 otherwise incur for the first two months of coverage to the managed
28 care organization selected by the family to provide coverage for such
29 child.

30 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Commissioner of Social
31 Services shall reimburse providers of medical services under the
32 HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B at a rate that is equal to the rate paid
33 for the provision of such services under the Medicare program.

34 Sec. 5. Section 17b-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the
35 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

36 (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the Children's Health
37 Council, the Medicaid Managed Care Council and the 2-1-1 Infoline [of
38 Connecticut] program, shall develop mechanisms [for outreach for] to
39 increase outreach and maximize enrollment of eligible children and
40 adults in the HUSKY Plan, Part A [and] or Part B, including, but not
41 limited to, development of mail-in applications and appropriate
42 outreach materials through the Department of Revenue Services, the
43 Labor Department, the Department of Social Services, the Department
44 of Public Health, the Department of Children and Families and the
45 Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

46 (b) The commissioner shall include in such outreach efforts
47 information on the Medicaid program for the purpose of maximizing
48 enrollment of eligible children and the use of federal funds.

49 (c) The commissioner shall, within available appropriations,
50 contract with severe need schools and community-based organizations
51 for purposes of public education, outreach and recruitment of eligible
52 children, including the distribution of applications and information
53 regarding enrollment in the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. In
54 awarding such contracts, the commissioner shall consider the
55 marketing, outreach and recruitment efforts of organizations. For the
56 purposes of this subsection, (1) "community-based organizations" shall
57 include, but not be limited to, day care centers, schools, school-based
58 health clinics, community-based diagnostic and treatment centers and
59 hospitals, and (2) "severe need school" means a school in which forty
60 per cent or more of the lunches served are served to students who are
61 eligible for free or reduced price lunches.

62 (d) The commissioner, in consultation with the Latino and Puerto
63 Rican Affairs Commission, shall collaborate with Latino community-
64 based organizations to develop and implement outreach efforts that
65 specifically target eligible Latino children in order to increase
66 enrollment of such children in HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B. Such
67 efforts shall include, but not be limited to, public education, outreach
68 and recruitment activities described in subsections (a) to (c), inclusive,
69 of this section.

70 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) All outreach materials shall be approved by the
71 commissioner pursuant to Subtitle J of Public Law 105-33.

72 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) Not later than January 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, the
73 commissioner shall submit a report to the Governor and the General
74 Assembly on the implementation of and the results of the community-
75 based outreach program specified in subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of
76 this section.

77 Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2007) The Commissioner of Social
78 Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall
79 develop a plan to implement a system of preventive health care
80 services for children under the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B,
81 including, but not be limited to, ophthalmologic care, oral health care
82 and chronic disease management.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	17b-292(a)
Sec. 2	July 1, 2007	17b-292(b)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2007	17b-292(e)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2007	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2007	17b-297
Sec. 6	July 1, 2007	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To improve the health and well-being of each child in Connecticut by ensuring health insurance coverage for newborns in this state an increasing enrollment of eligible children in the HUSKY plan.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. AMANN, 118th Dist.; REP. TRUGLIA, 145th Dist.

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