



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 604

February Session, 2008

Senate Bill No. 663

Senate, April 14, 2008

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

AN ACT PROVIDING STATE-FUNDED MEDICAL COVERAGE TO CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (h) of section 17b-261 of the 2008 supplement
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in
3 lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008*):

4 (h) Medical assistance shall be provided, in accordance with the
5 provisions of subsection (e) of section 17a-6, to any child under the
6 supervision of the Commissioner of Children and Families who is not
7 receiving Medicaid benefits, has not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits
8 or is otherwise ineligible for such benefits. [because of institutional
9 status.] Medical assistance shall also be provided to any child placed
10 under the direction of the Commissioner of Developmental Services in
11 the voluntary services program who is not receiving Medicaid benefits,
12 has not yet qualified for Medicaid benefits or is otherwise ineligible for

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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill clarifies the Department of Social Services' authority to provide state funded medical coverage for certain children under the direction of the Department of Developmental Services. As this bill clarifies a current practice of the agency, there is no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 663*****AN ACT PROVIDING STATE-FUNDED MEDICAL COVERAGE TO CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands eligibility for state-funded medical assistance to include children under the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) voluntary services program who (1) are not receiving Medicaid, (2) have not yet qualified for Medicaid, or (3) are ineligible for Medicaid.

By law, the commissioner of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must ensure that all children under her supervision have adequate medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, and social services. State-funded medical assistance is currently provided, in accordance with this mandate, to children under the care of DCF who (1) are not receiving Medicaid, (2) have not yet qualified for Medicaid, or (3) are ineligible for Medicaid because of institutional status. The bill removes the institutional status requirement for these children.

Finally, the bill requires the DDS commissioner, to the extent practicable, to apply for, or assist children in qualifying for, Medicaid. Current law requires the DCF Commissioner to do this on behalf of children under her supervision.

(Although the bill's language is added to the state's Medicaid statutes, and DSS runs the state's Medicaid program, neither the bill or the law specifies which agency provides this assistance.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

BACKGROUND***State-Funded Medical Assistance***

Under current practice, DSS runs a state-funded medical assistance program for children under DCF supervision through a cooperative arrangement with DCF. This includes those children who are (1) incarcerated or residing in detention facilities, (2) undocumented non-citizens, (3) in the voluntary services program being placed in residential treatment facilities, and (4) for whom DSS has not determined Medicaid eligibility. Federal law prohibits states from granting Medicaid to individuals in correctional institutions.

State medical assistance is used to provide bridge coverage to children in the voluntary services program who are placed in residential treatment for the initial one month period when the parent's income is still counted in determining the child's Medicaid eligibility. It may also be used to provide coverage to children placed in out-of-state treatment facilities who may not be eligible for Medicaid. There are approximately 10 children in this coverage group at any given time.

The voluntary services program was operated solely by DCF until 2005 when DCF signed an interagency agreement with DDS to transition children with a dual mental health and mental retardation diagnosis served in the program to DDS. DDS also serves new children with this dual diagnosis who apply to the program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/18/2008)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 54 Nay 0 (03/28/2008)