



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 145

February Session, 2014

House Bill No. 5137

House of Representatives, March 27, 2014

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. ABERCROMBIE of the 83rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIGIBILITY OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE HUSKY PLAN.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-292 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

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

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

11 (c) Whenever a court or family support magistrate orders a
12 noncustodial parent to provide health insurance for a child, such

13 parent may provide for coverage under the HUSKY Plan, Part B.

14 (d) To the extent allowed under federal law, the commissioner shall
15 not pay for services or durable medical equipment under the HUSKY
16 Plan, Part B if the enrollee has other insurance coverage for the services
17 or such equipment.

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 or her date of birth, provided an application is filed on behalf of the
21 child not later than thirty days after such date. Any uninsured child
22 born in a hospital in this state or in a border state hospital shall be
23 enrolled on an expedited basis in the HUSKY Plan, Part B, provided (1)
24 the parent or caretaker relative of such child resides in this state, and
25 (2) the parent or caretaker relative of such child authorizes enrollment
26 in the program. The commissioner shall pay any premium cost such
27 family would otherwise incur for the first four months of coverage.

28 (f) The commissioner shall implement presumptive eligibility for
29 children applying for Medicaid and may, if cost effective, implement
30 presumptive eligibility for children in families with income under
31 three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level applying for the
32 HUSKY Plan, Part B. Such presumptive eligibility determinations shall
33 be in accordance with applicable federal law and regulations. The
34 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54,
35 to establish standards and procedures for the designation of
36 organizations as qualified entities to grant presumptive eligibility.
37 Qualified entities shall ensure that, at the time a presumptive eligibility
38 determination is made, a completed application for benefits is
39 submitted to the department for a full eligibility determination. In
40 establishing such standards and procedures, the commissioner shall
41 ensure the representation of state-wide and local organizations that
42 provide services to children of all ages in each region of the state.

43 (g) The commissioner shall provide for a single point of entry
44 servicer for applicants and enrollees under the HUSKY Plan, Part A
45 and Part B. The commissioner, in consultation with the servicer, shall

46 establish a centralized unit to be responsible for processing all
47 applications for assistance under the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B.
48 The department, through its servicer, shall ensure that a child who is
49 determined to be eligible for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A,
50 or the HUSKY Plan, Part B has uninterrupted health insurance
51 coverage for as long as the parent or guardian elects to enroll or re-
52 enroll such child in the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part B. The
53 commissioner, in consultation with the servicer, and in accordance
54 with the provisions of section 17b-297, shall jointly market both Part A
55 and Part B together as the HUSKY Plan and shall develop and
56 implement public information and outreach activities with community
57 programs. Such servicer shall electronically transmit data with respect
58 to enrollment and disenrollment in the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B
59 to the commissioner.

60 (h) Upon the expiration of any contractual provisions entered into
61 pursuant to subsection (g) of this section, the commissioner shall
62 develop a new contract for single point of entry services. The
63 commissioner may enter into one or more contractual arrangements
64 for such services for a contract period not to exceed seven years. Such
65 contracts shall include performance measures, including, but not
66 limited to, specified time limits for the processing of applications,
67 parameters setting forth the requirements for a completed and
68 reviewable application and the percentage of applications forwarded
69 to the department in a complete and timely fashion. Such contracts
70 shall also include a process for identifying and correcting
71 noncompliance with established performance measures, including
72 sanctions applicable for instances of continued noncompliance with
73 performance measures.

74 (i) The single point of entry servicer shall send all applications and
75 supporting documents to the commissioner for determination of
76 eligibility. The servicer shall enroll eligible beneficiaries in the
77 applicant's choice of an administrative services organization. If there is
78 more than one administrative services organization, upon enrollment
79 in an administrative services organization, an eligible HUSKY Plan,

80 Part A or Part B beneficiary shall remain enrolled in such organization
81 for twelve months from the date of such enrollment unless (1) an
82 eligible beneficiary demonstrates good cause to the satisfaction of the
83 commissioner of the need to enroll in a different organization, or (2)
84 the beneficiary no longer meets program eligibility requirements.

85 (j) A child who has been determined to be eligible for benefits under
86 either the HUSKY Plan, Part A or Part B shall remain eligible for such
87 plan for a period of not less than twelve months from such child's
88 determination of eligibility unless the child attains the age of nineteen
89 or is no longer a resident of the state.

90 [(j)] (k) Not later than ten months after the determination of
91 eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A and Part B and
92 annually thereafter, the commissioner or the servicer [, as the case may
93 be,] shall, within existing budgetary resources, mail or, upon request of
94 a participant, electronically transmit an application form to each
95 participant in the plan for the purposes of obtaining information to
96 make a determination on continued eligibility beyond the twelve
97 months of initial eligibility. To the extent permitted by federal law, in
98 determining eligibility for benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part A or
99 Part B with respect to family income, the commissioner or the servicer
100 shall rely upon information provided in such form by the participant
101 unless the commissioner or the servicer has reason to believe that such
102 information is inaccurate or incomplete. The Department of Social
103 Services shall annually review a random sample of cases to confirm
104 that, based on the statistical sample, relying on such information is not
105 resulting in ineligible clients receiving benefits under the HUSKY Plan,
106 Part A or Part B. The determination of eligibility shall be coordinated
107 with health plan open enrollment periods.

108 [(k)] (l) The commissioner shall implement the HUSKY Plan, Part B
109 while in the process of adopting necessary policies and procedures in
110 regulation form in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-10.

111 [(l)] (m) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance
112 with chapter 54, to establish residency requirements and income

113 eligibility for participation in the HUSKY Plan, Part B and procedures
114 for a simplified mail-in application process. Notwithstanding the
115 provisions of section 17b-257b, such regulations shall provide that any
116 child adopted from another country by an individual who is a citizen
117 of the United States and a resident of this state shall be eligible for
118 benefits under the HUSKY Plan, Part B upon arrival in this state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-292

HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Department of Social Services	GF - Potential Cost	Up to \$9.8 million	Up to \$9.8 million

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires that children enrolled in the HUSKY program remain continuously eligible for services for a period of not less than twelve months, which is expected to result in annual costs of up to \$9.8 million.

In 2012, 86.5% of the children who were enrolled in the HUSKY program in January were still enrolled in the program at the end of the year, indicating that approximately 1.3% disenrolled per month.¹ Approximately one-third of these are assumed to have disenrolled due to aging out of the program. It is further assumed that an additional one-third of these children would have disenrolled due other factors unchanged by continuous eligibility, e.g. moving out of state, transitioning to private insurance, etc.. Therefore, based on a total enrollment of 290,000, approximately 1,200 children each month who would have otherwise lost coverage will maintain eligibility under the terms of the bill. Assuming an average of a three-month gap in coverage² and an annual cost of \$3,339 per child, increased Medicaid and HUSKY B costs of \$9.8 million would result.

¹ Council on Medicaid Assistance Program Oversight

² Median gap in coverage for six state study, *Enrollment and Disenrollment in MassHealth and Commonwealth Care*, Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute, 2010

It should be noted that the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services testified that it is the Department's intent to delay the processing of Medicaid renewals for most HUSKY A and B households until 2015, and to move to a passive renewal process after that time. If this policy is implemented as intended, it is likely that most of the disenrollments assumed above will not occur, thereby reducing or eliminating most of the costs of a statutory continuous eligibility policy.

The Out Years

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

Sources: Department of Social Services Caseload Information

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5137

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELIGIBILITY OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE HUSKY PLAN.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes a child who has been determined eligible for benefits under HUSKY A (Medicaid for low-income children, their parents and relative caregivers, and pregnant women) or B (the state Children's Health Insurance Program) eligible for at least 12 months from the time he or she is determined to be eligible, unless, during that time, he or she turns age 19 or moves out of Connecticut.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)