



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 135**

February Session, 2016



**AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO HUSKY PLUS.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-294a of the 2016 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The commissioner shall, within available appropriations,  
5 establish a supplemental health program to be known as HUSKY Plus  
6 for [members of the subsidized portions of] HUSKY B members whose  
7 medical needs cannot be accommodated within the basic benefit  
8 package offered to members. The HUSKY Plus program shall  
9 supplement coverage for those medically eligible members with  
10 intensive physical health needs.

11 (b) Within available appropriations, the commissioner shall contract  
12 with one or more entities to (1) administer and operate the HUSKY  
13 Plus program, [Such entities shall be the same entities that the  
14 Department of Public Health contracts with to administer and operate  
15 the program under Title V of the Social Security Act. The advisory  
16 committee established by the Department of Public Health for Title V  
17 of the Social Security Act shall be the steering committee for such  
18 program, except that such committee shall include representatives of  
19 the Departments of Social Services and Children and Families] and (2)

20 conduct an external quality review of the HUSKY Plus program not  
21 later than July 1, 2017.

22 (c) [The acuity standards or diagnostic eligibility criteria, or both,  
23 the service benefits package and the provider network for the HUSKY  
24 Plus program shall be consistent with that of Title V of the Social  
25 Security Act. Such] The service benefit package shall be supplemental  
26 to HUSKY B services and shall include powered wheelchairs. If a  
27 provider is not enrolled in the medical assistance program, the  
28 provider shall accept the medical assistance program rates as payment  
29 in full and such other conditions as the commissioner may specify.

30 (d) [The] Not later than July 1, 2017, the commissioner shall adopt  
31 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1) establish criteria and  
32 specify services for the HUSKY Plus program, and (2) establish a  
33 procedure for the appeal of a denial of coverage under the HUSKY  
34 Plus program. [Such regulations shall provide that (1) an appeal of a  
35 denial of coverage for a medically eligible member shall be taken to the  
36 steering committee, and (2) a medically eligible member may appeal  
37 the decision of any such steering committee to the commissioner] Such  
38 regulations shall state that the HUSKY Plus program shall give priority  
39 in such program to members with household incomes at or below two  
40 hundred forty-nine per cent of the federal poverty level.

41 [(e) The commissioner shall contract for an external quality review  
42 of the HUSKY Plus program.]

43 [(f)] (e) On and after the date on which any medically eligible  
44 member begins receiving benefits under the HUSKY Plus program,  
45 such member shall not be eligible for services under Title V of the  
46 Social Security Act, with the exception of respite care services.

47 [(g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with  
48 the provisions of chapter 54, to establish criteria and specify services  
49 for the HUSKY Plus program. Such regulations shall state that the  
50 HUSKY Plus program shall give priority in such program to members

51 with household incomes at or below two hundred forty-nine per cent  
52 of the federal poverty level.]

53 [(h)] (f) As used in this section, "medically eligible member" means  
54 any member with intensive physical health needs [who meets the  
55 acuity standards or diagnostic eligibility criteria adopted by the  
56 commissioner regarding the acuity, diagnosis, functional impairment  
57 and intensive service needs of the member] whose medical needs  
58 cannot be met within the HUSKY B benefits offered to members.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-294a

**HS**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*