
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 911

AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PRENATAL CARE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to amend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) state plan to provide medical assistance for prenatal care through the "unborn child option." This is a state option that allows states to consider an unborn child a low-income child eligible for coverage of prenatal care if other CHIP eligibility requirements are met. According to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the requirement to meet other CHIP eligibility criteria applies to the child and not the mother.

The bill requires the commissioner to amend the CHIP plan within 30 days of the bill's passage. CHIP is jointly funded by the state and federal government and is administered by DSS according to federal requirements. The state provides CHIP coverage under HUSKY B, which covers children in families with household incomes between 196% and 318% of the federal poverty limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/09/2021)