



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 130

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 910

Senate, March 24, 2021

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. MOORE of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR POST-PARTUM CARE TO TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A MEDICAID BENEFICIARY GIVES BIRTH TO A CHILD.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-277 of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (NEW) (d) The commissioner, to the extent permissible under federal
4 law, shall extend Medicaid coverage for post-partum care for a woman
5 otherwise eligible pursuant to this section for twelve months after the
6 date on which she gives birth. The commissioner shall amend the
7 Medicaid state plan, or apply for a Medicaid waiver under Section 1115
8 of the Social Security Act, as amended from time to time, whichever is
9 permissible under federal law and most expeditious, to provide federal
10 reimbursement to the state for extending post-partum care pursuant to
11 this subsection.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
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|-----------|---------------------|---------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 17b-277 |
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HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 22 \$ | FY 23 \$ |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Social Services, Dept. | GF - Cost | \$1.9 million | \$1.9 million |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a state Medicaid cost of approximately \$1.9 million in FY 22 and FY 23 to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with extending Medicaid coverage for post-partum care from 60 days to twelve months. The cost reflects an average monthly gross cost of \$365 per person.

To the extent the state is required to provide similar coverage under HUSKY B due to the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act, DSS will incur additional costs beginning in FY 23.

The Out Years

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

Sources: Department of Social Services Caseload and Utilization Information

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 910*****AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR POST-PARTUM CARE TO TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A MEDICAID BENEFICIARY GIVES BIRTH TO A CHILD.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, to the extent federal law permits, to extend Medicaid coverage for post-partum care to 12 months after a mother gives birth. Under current practice, DSS provides post-partum coverage to these Medicaid beneficiaries for 60 days post-birth, in accordance with federal law (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, the extended post-partum coverage applies to women who are Medicaid eligible due to their pregnancies. The bill requires the commissioner to either amend the Medicaid state plan or apply for a Section 1115 waiver, whichever is permitted under federal law and most expeditious, in order to provide the state with federal reimbursement for the extended post-partum care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND***Federal Laws on Post-Partum Medicaid Coverage***

Generally, federal law requires states to provide pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries continued coverage for 60 days post-birth (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(e)(4)). However, the recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) allows states to amend their Medicaid state plans or waivers to extend this post-partum coverage from 60 days to 12 months post-birth. Under the act, states may provide this optional extended coverage for a five-year period, beginning in federal fiscal year 2023. Under the federal law, states that opt to do so must also extend post-

partum coverage in the same manner in their Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP)(in Connecticut, HUSKY B).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/09/2021)