



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 516

January Session, 2021

Senate Bill No. 956

Senate, April 19, 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 bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17b-261 of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (NEW) (l) Within available appropriations, the Commissioner of
4 Social Services shall provide medical assistance to any person who
5 otherwise meets income eligibility guidelines (1) pursuant to subsection
6 (a) of this section, or (2) for HUSKY D, as defined in section 17b-290,
7 regardless of immigration status.

8 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 17b-277 of the general statutes is
9 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
10 *2021*):

11 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall provide, in accordance
12 with federal law and regulations, medical assistance under the Medicaid

13 program to needy pregnant women whose families have an income not
 14 exceeding two hundred fifty-eight per cent of the federal poverty level.
 15 Within available appropriations, the commissioner shall provide
 16 medical assistance to such women regardless of such women's
 17 immigration status.

18 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 17b-292 of the general statutes is
 19 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
 20 *2021*):

21 (a) A child who resides in a household with household income which
 22 exceeds one hundred ninety-six per cent of the federal poverty level and
 23 does not exceed three hundred eighteen per cent of the federal poverty
 24 level may be eligible for benefits under HUSKY B, regardless of
 25 immigration status.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-261
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-277(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	17b-292(a)

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 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	\$67 million to \$116 million	\$200 million to \$258 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) associated with extending Medicaid and HUSKY B eligibility to individuals regardless of immigration status.

This is anticipated to increase program costs by approximately \$67 million to \$116 million in FY 22 and up to \$200 million to \$258 million in FY 23, depending on enrollment and per member costs. This reflects fully state-funded costs as federal Medicaid coverage is generally not available to support individuals without a qualified non-citizen status. The actual cost depends on the timing of enrollment as well as service utilization by category. This is estimated to impact approximately 38,500 individuals in HUSKY A, C, D, and HUSKY B.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to program enrollment and service utilization.

Sources: Department of Social Services Cost and Caseload Information
Migration Policy Institute (unauthorized immigrant population data for CT)
US Census Bureau

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 956*****AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide medical assistance, within available appropriations, to people regardless of their immigration status, as long as they otherwise meet income eligibility guidelines for HUSKY A, C, and D (see BACKGROUND).

Under current law, children in households with incomes above 196% of the federal poverty limit (FPL) and up to 318% FPL may be eligible for benefits under HUSKY B. The bill authorizes HUSKY B eligibility regardless of immigration status. In practice, HUSKY B is the program through which DSS distributes federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits. Under federal law, CHIP coverage is generally available to certain lawfully present non-citizens and unavailable to those who are undocumented.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND***HUSKY A***

HUSKY A provides Medicaid coverage to:

1. parents and caretaker relatives with a household income of up to 155% of FPL (CGS § 17b-261(a));
2. children under age 19 with household income of up to 196% of FPL (CGS § 17b-261(a)); and
3. pregnant women with household income of up to 258% of FPL

(CGS § 17b-277(a)).

HUSKY C

HUSKY C provides Medicaid coverage to adults who are age 65 and older, blind, or living with a disability. HUSKY C income limits are based on the state's family cash assistance benefit (i.e., Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)) for the region where the applicant lives (CGS § 17b-261(a)). Specifically, the income limit is 143% of the TFA benefit for the region with a standard monthly income disregard. Currently, the monthly income limit is generally less than 100% of FPL, but higher for institutionalized individuals.

HUSKY D

HUSKY D provides Medicaid coverage to low-income adults, ages 18 to 64, who are not pregnant (CGS § 17b-290(16)). The HUSKY D income limit is 133% of FPL.

Related Bill

sSB 1056, favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, generally increases the income limit for Medicaid to 200% of FPL.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (04/01/2021)