

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-909

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE HUSKY B PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/9/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/23/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will change the copayments under HUSKY B. Instead of matching the copayment levels under the state employee point-of-enrollment health care plan, this bill specifies that it may not exceed this amount. This amendment helps to increase the affordability and thus accessibility of the HUSKY B program. This bill also eliminates the HUSKY Plus program, which provides certain supplemental services to members who have medical needs that exceed HUSKY B covered benefits. The services covered under the HUSKY Plus program will be added to the HUSKY B program. This will streamline the two programs, for reasons of administrative cost-savings and program efficiency.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Deidre S. Gifford, Commissioner, Department of Social Services, supports this bill. She commented that this bill was requested to reflect the Department's current practice. The Department did not increase copayments to match the state employee point-of-enrollment health care plan under the Public Act because the cost is too high for low-income HUSKY B families. Dr. Gifford supports the elimination of the separate "HUSKY Plus" program since these supplemental services will become a part of the basic HUSKY B benefit package. This will create more efficiency as the administrative cost of the HUKSKY Plus program would be eliminated. Also, the process for members to qualify for the supplemental services will become streamlined. The Department does not foresee an increase in the utilization of HUSKY Plus services. The children who require these additional services should already receive them and will continue to do so under this proposed bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: Gianna Vollano

Date: March 21, 2021