
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6616

AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS.

SUMMARY

Current law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to provide state-funded medical assistance, within available appropriations, to certain children regardless of their immigration status. DSS must give the assistance to children who are ineligible for HUSKY A (Medicaid), HUSKY B (the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)), or affordable employer-sponsored insurance, and have household incomes of (1) up to 201% of the federal poverty level (FPL) without an asset limit (aligning with HUSKY A limits) or (2) over 201% and up to 323% FPL (generally aligning with HUSKY B limits).

This bill expands eligibility for this assistance by requiring DSS to provide it to children ages 15 and under, rather than ages 12 and under as current law requires.

As under current law, children eligible for assistance must continue to receive it until they are 19 years old, so long as they continue to meet the income requirements and remain ineligible for HUSKY A, HUSKY B, or affordable employer-sponsored insurance.

The bill also requires the commissioner to study the costs and benefits of extending coverage to anyone ages 25 and younger under the same conditions. By January 1, 2025, she must report to the Appropriations and Human Services committees on the study and a plan to implement the extended coverage.

Lastly, the bill makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP

Yea 14 Nay 8 (03/02/2023)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 13 (04/21/2023)