

HOUSE BILL 97

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1998 Regular Session
8lr6167
CF 8lr6166

(PRE-FILED)

By: **The Speaker (Administration) and Delegates Oaks, D. Davis, Hubbard,
Turner, Pitkin, Kopp, Frush, Nathan-Pulliam, Morhaim, and Grosfeld**

Requested: November 14, 1997

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters and Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Children's Health Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Medical Assistance Program to provide certain
4 services to certain minors and other individuals who meet certain family income
5 standards; providing that in order to qualify for the Program an individual may
6 not be covered by or have voluntarily terminated certain employer-based health
7 insurance coverage within a certain time period; requiring the Department to
8 make certain outreach efforts; providing that Program applications shall be
9 made available in a certain manner; requiring the Department to apply for a
10 certain waiver, conduct certain studies, and submit certain reports; making
11 provisions of this Act severable; and generally relating to the Maryland
12 Children's Health Program.

13 BY renumbering

14 Article - Health - General
15 Section 15-103.1
16 to be Section 15-103.2
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

20 Article - Health - General
21 Section 15-101(a), (h), and (i)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

24 BY adding to

25 Article - Health - General
26 Section 15-103.1
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 15-103.1 of Article - Health - General of the Annotated
3 Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 15-103.2.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
5 read as follows:

6 **Article - Health - General**

7 15-101.

8 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (h) "Program" means the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

10 (i) "Program recipient" means an individual who receives benefits under the
11 Program.

12 15-103.1.

13 (A) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, THE PROGRAM
14 SHALL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL CARE AND OTHER HEALTH CARE
15 SERVICES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS A FAMILY INCOME AT OR BELOW 200% OF
16 THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL AND WHO IS:

17 (1) UNDER THE AGE OF 19 YEARS; OR

18 (2) PREGNANT OR UP TO 2 MONTHS POSTPARTUM.

19 (B) TO QUALIFY AS A PROGRAM RECIPIENT UNDER THIS SECTION, AN
20 INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT:

21 (1) BE COVERED BY EMPLOYER-BASED HEALTH INSURANCE; OR

22 (2) HAVE VOLUNTARILY TERMINATED EMPLOYER-BASED HEALTH
23 INSURANCE COVERAGE WITHIN THE PRECEDING 3 MONTHS.

24 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLICIZE THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S
25 HEALTH PROGRAM AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE
26 FOUNDATION, MAKE OUTREACH EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

27 (D) (1) APPLICATIONS TO QUALIFY AS A PROGRAM RECIPIENT UNDER THIS
28 SECTION SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND LOCAL
29 DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

30 (2) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, APPLICATIONS TO QUALIFY AS A
31 PROGRAM RECIPIENT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN
32 SCHOOLS, DAY CARE CENTERS, LIBRARIES, HEAD START PROGRAMS, AND OTHER
33 APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.

34 (3) APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE MAIL.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department shall
2 apply to the federal Health Care Financing Administration for a waiver and take any
3 other steps necessary to secure federal dollars at an enhanced matching rate for
4 coverage of pregnant women.

5 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of
6 Health and Mental Hygiene shall study and report to the Senate Finance Committee,
7 the House Environmental Matters Committee, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
8 the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 31, 1998,
9 on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of providing family coverage for the families
10 of individuals who qualify to receive benefits under § 15-103.1 of the Health -
11 General Article.

12 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this
13 Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is not approved by the
14 federal Health Care Financing Administration, that disapproval does not affect other
15 provisions or any other application of this Act which is approved, and for this purpose
16 the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

17 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
18 effect July 1, 1998.