

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 395 (Senator Kellev. *et al.*)

Finance

Medical Assistance - Expedited Eligibility

This bill clarifies the current practice of expedited eligibility for children and pregnant women who apply for health care coverage under the Children's Health Program (CHIP), to include any individual with associated food stamp, cash assistance, or medical assistance cases, to the extent permitted by federal law and regulations.

"Expedited eligibility" is defined as a streamlined eligibility process, conducted by the local health departments, for medical assistance for children and pregnant women under which an eligibility determination is made promptly, but not later than ten working days after the application date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any costs associated with guaranteeing expedited eligibility are assumed to be minimal and could be handled with existing Medicaid resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Medicaid currently offers expedited eligibility for applicants at the local health departments.

State Effect: Local health departments currently provide expedited eligibility for Medicaid applicants. Eligibility determinations have been made promptly for most applicants;

however, if an applicant is also applying for other assistance, such as food stamps or temporary cash assistance, Medicaid eligibility determinations may be delayed. Any additional costs associated with guaranteeing that eligibility determinations are made within ten days are assumed to be minimal and can be handled with existing Medicaid resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 866 (Delegate Klausmeier, *et al.*) - Environmental Matters.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Medicaid, Community Public Health Administration), Department of Human Resources, Maryland Insurance Administration, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2000
mld/jr Revised - Corrected - February 22, 2000
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