



Bob Bennett

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 517

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Fessler, Grendell, Gilb, Collier, Reidelbach, Faber, Carey, McGregor, Flowers, Brinkman, White, Willamowski, Webster, Raga, Schaffer, Young, Husted, Schmidt, Hagan, DeWine, Kearns

BILL SUMMARY

- Provides for health assistance under the Children's Health Insurance Program to be available to uninsured individuals from conception through 18.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a federal and state-financed health program for certain uninsured individuals under 19. Ohio has two CHIP programs, Part I and Part II. Part I covers minors with family incomes not exceeding 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. Part II covers minors with family incomes above 150%, but not exceeding 200%, of the federal poverty guidelines.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed amending federal CHIP regulations to revise the definition of "child" to provide that an unborn child may qualify for CHIP if all other eligibility requirements are met. In its summary of the proposed rule, CMS states that "[u]nder this definition, the State may elect to extend eligibility to unborn children for health benefits coverage, including prenatal care and delivery, consistent with . . . [CHIP] . . . requirements." [Federal Register 67 (5 March 2002): 9936.]

The bill

(secs. 5101.50, 5101.503, 5101.51, and 5101.519)

The bill revises the eligibility requirements for CHIP Part I and Part II by providing for both parts to provide health assistance to uninsured individuals from conception through 18 rather than to uninsured individuals under 19. Both parts continue to be subject to the availability of federal financial participation. As regards CHIP Part II, the ODJFS Director continues to have authority to refuse to accept new applications or make CHIP Part II's eligibility requirements more restrictive if the Director determines that federal financial participation is insufficient to provide health assistance to all the individuals the Director anticipates are eligible for it.¹

Current law provides that a completed Medicaid application is to be treated as an application for health assistance under CHIP if the application is for an assistance group that includes a child under 19 and is denied. The bill provides that a Medicaid application is to be treated as a CHIP application if it is for an assistance group that includes a child from conception through 18 and is denied.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-19-02	p. 1415

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¹ R.C. 5101.516, not in the bill.