



Greg Schwab

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 86

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Willamowski, Aslanides, Seitz

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes a program that offers access to health insurance as an alternative to standard Medicaid pay-per-service coverage.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Health insurance option for Medicaid patients

(sec. 5111.131)

The bill requires the Director of Job and Family Services to submit a request to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services not later than 90 days after the bill's effective date, asking for a waiver of federal Medicaid requirements and prohibitions in order that the state may establish and operate an insurance exchange program to be known as the "Health Mart" program. The Director is required to specify all of the following in the waiver request:

(1) All individuals entitled to Medicaid benefits under Medicaid regulations issued by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services will be eligible to obtain insurance under the Health Mart program.

(2) Any individual eligible to obtain insurance under the Health Mart program will have a choice between two or more insurance policies offered by the program, but will not be required to participate in the program.

(3) The Department of Job and Family Services will administer the Health Mart program, using Medicaid funds to subsidize the cost of the program's insurance policies. The Department annually will review all insurance policies filed with the Department for potential use in the Health Mart program and will select two or more of the policies that meet all of the program's conditions to offer to program participants.

(4) Any individual entitled to participate in the Health Mart program who is also qualified to participate in an employer-sponsored health care plan will be permitted to participate in the employer-sponsored plan. The individual's premiums for the employer-sponsored plan will be subsidized by the Health Mart program up to the amount that otherwise would be available to the individual for premiums under the Health Mart program.

(5) The Department of Job and Family Services will assist individuals participating in the Health Mart program in selecting one of the insurance policies offered by the program.

As used in the bill, all of the following are insurance policies: (1) sickness and accident insurance policies, (2) health insuring corporation policies, contracts, and agreements, (3) Medical Savings Accounts established under Chapter 3924. of the Revised Code alone or in connection with a sickness and accident insurance policy or health insuring corporation policy, contract, or agreement, and (4) any other policy, contract, plan, or agreement under which a third-party payer agrees to reimburse a beneficiary for, or to pay for, eligible medical expenses as defined by the terms of the policy, contract, plan, or agreement.

On receipt of a waiver from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Director of Job and Family Services is required to adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to establish and administer the Health Mart program.

The bill prohibits the Department of Job and Family Services from offering any insurance policy under the Health Mart program in any year that two or more insurance policies meeting the program's conditions are not available or in any year that the cost of the program would exceed the Department's anticipated costs for the same individuals under a Medicaid fee-for-service program.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-23-05	p. 234

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