



S.B. 272

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Stivers, Schuring, R. Miller, Padgett, Cafaro

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires that the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) be available to eligible residents of Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Hamilton counties and other counties, or parts of counties, selected by the Department of Aging.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background

Federal law permits a state to include in its Medicaid program a component known as the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).¹ Under the PACE component, the state agency administering the PACE component² and the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services enter into an agreement with a provider under which the provider, directly or by contract with other entities, provides medical services to individuals enrolled in the PACE component.

The medical services available under the PACE component must include all items and services covered by the Medicaid program and, in the case of PACE enrollees who are also entitled to benefits under Medicare Part A or enrolled in Medicare Part B, all items and services covered by the Medicare program. The medical services are to be provided without any limitation or condition as to amount, duration, or scope and without application of deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing that would otherwise apply under Medicaid or Medicare. The medical services are also to include all additional items and services specified in federal regulations. The provider is required to provide

¹ 42 U.S.C. 1396u-4.

² Continuing state law requires the Department of Aging to carry out the day-to-day administration of the PACE component. (Revised Code §173.50.)

PACE enrollees access to necessary covered items and services 24 hours per day, every day of the year. The enrollees are to receive the medical services through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary health and social services delivery system that integrates acute and long-term services pursuant to federal regulations.

To be eligible for the PACE component, a Medicaid recipient must be (1) at least 55 years old, (2) require the level of care required by the state's Medicaid program for coverage of nursing facility services, (3) reside in an area of the state in which the PACE component is available, and (4) meet all other eligibility requirements included in a PACE agreement with a provider.³ A PACE enrollee may maintain eligibility despite no longer requiring a nursing facility level of care if losing eligibility for PACE would reasonably cause the individual to reacquire the need for a nursing facility level of care within the succeeding six-month period.

The PACE agreement with the provider must designate the area of the state the agreement covers. This is known as the service area.

There are two PACE providers in Ohio, TriHealth Senior Link and Concordia Care. The service area for the PACE agreement with TriHealth Senior Link is Hamilton County and certain zip codes in Warren, Butler, and Clermont counties. Cuyahoga County is the service area for the PACE agreement with Concordia Care.

The bill

(R.C. 173.50)

Current law does not specify the areas of the state to be covered by the PACE component. The bill requires that the PACE component be available to eligible residents of Cuyahoga, Franklin, and Hamilton counties and eligible residents of other counties, or parts of other counties, the Department of Aging selects.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	01-10-08

s0272-i-127.doc/kl

³ The PACE component is also available to Medicare recipients.