

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 595

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MEDICAID: Provides relative to Medicaid coverage through the TEFRA option program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:977.24(A)(8), relative to Medicaid coverage; to provide for Medicaid  
3 coverage through the TEFRA option; to provide for eligibility; to provide for the  
4 treatment of a severe health condition; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 46:977.24(A)(8) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §977.24. Eligibility factors; benefits; premium payment program participation

8 A. In order to be eligible for the TEFRA option, a child shall meet all of the  
9 following eligibility criteria:

10 \* \* \*

11 (8) Due to his disability, he presents for emergency care in a hospital  
12 emergency department more frequently than once per month. The child satisfies this  
13 eligibility criteria if his physician determines that use of the emergency room is  
14 necessary to stabilize a condition, such as acute chest syndrome, as a result of his  
15 disability even if the child is not admitted to the hospital for inpatient treatment.

16 \* \* \*

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 595 Original

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**Abstract:** Adds eligibility criteria used to determine a child's eligibility for Medicaid coverage through the TEFRA option.

Present law allows eligible children to obtain Medicaid, regardless of parent income, through the TEFRA option if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- (1) He is a Louisiana resident and United States citizen.
- (2) He is under the age of nineteen.
- (3) He has a disability that is recognized under the definition of disability utilized in the Supplemental Security Income program of the Social Security Administration, regardless of whether he is eligible to receive benefits under that program.
- (4) He is ineligible for Medicaid coverage when the income of his parents is considered.
- (5) Excluding the assets of his parents, he does not have total assets exceeding two thousand dollars in value.
- (6) Due to his disability, he requires a level of care provided in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or intermediate care facility; however, care provided outside of such an institution may be appropriate.
- (7) The cost of his care provided at his home is less than the cost of institutional care.

Proposed law modifies present law adding that a child may qualify for TEFRA if, due to his disability, he presents in the hospital for emergency care more than once per month. Proposed law further provides that a child satisfies this eligibility criteria if his physician determines that use of the emergency room is necessary to stabilize a condition, such as acute chest syndrome, as a result of his disability even if the child is not admitted to the hospital for inpatient treatment.

(Adds R.S. 46:977.24(A)(8))