HLS 19RS-569 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

HEALTH/LDH: Urges the secretary of La. Dept. of Health to reconsider the department's policy of excluding the majority of Medicaid enrollees from quarterly income verification

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to reconsider the
3	department's election to exclude roughly two-thirds of the state's Medicaid enrollees
4	from quarterly income eligibility verification.
5	WHEREAS, Medicaid is the largest expenditure in Louisiana's state budget; and
6	WHEREAS, from state fiscal year 2009-2010 to state fiscal year 2017-2018, the total
7	state budget grew by nineteen percent while spending on the state Medicaid program grew
8	by one hundred twenty-four percent; and
9	WHEREAS, pursuant to Louisiana's expansion of Medicaid eligibility by executive
10	order in 2016, over five hundred thousand people have been newly enrolled in the state
11	Medicaid program, far exceeding projections by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)
12	of expansion-related enrollment growth; and
13	WHEREAS, cost containment in Medicaid is an urgent priority of the legislature; and
14	WHEREAS, in a report issued in November, 2018, the legislative auditor found that
15	the process LDH uses to determine the eligibility of the Medicaid expansion population is
16	inadequate, and that Louisiana's Medicaid expansion program may have spent as much as
17	eighty-five million dollars on ineligible enrollees; and
18	WHEREAS, the federal Medicaid agency described the findings presented in this
19	report as "deeply troubling" and the agency's administrator indicated that the federal
20	government could seek repayment of money that the state misspent; and

1	WHEREAS, using random sampling, the legislative auditor recently found that
2	roughly eight percent of Medicaid enrollees were ineligible for benefits; and
3	WHEREAS, similarly, in a recent quarterly review of roughly one-third of the
4	Medicaid population for income eligibility verification purposes, LDH found that
5	approximately eight percent of Medicaid enrollees were ineligible for benefits; and
6	WHEREAS, if the remaining two-thirds of Medicaid enrollees were subject to the
7	same quarterly eligibility review, it is likely that a similar percentage would be found
8	ineligible for benefits; however, due to the department's election to provide extended periods
9	of continuous eligibility for the persons comprising this group (mainly pregnant women and
10	children) through its voluntary enrollment in a maintenance of effort option offered by the
11	federal Medicaid agency, no member of this population of over one million one hundred
12	thousand enrollees is subject to quarterly eligibility verification.
13	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14	urge and request the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to reconsider the
15	department's election to exclude roughly two-thirds of the state's Medicaid enrollees from
16	quarterly income eligibility verification.
17	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on or before September 1, 2019, the Louisiana
18	Department of Health shall submit to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate
19	Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the Senate
20	Committee on Health and Welfare a report detailing the actions it has taken, or will take, to
21	subject to quarterly income eligibility verification all Medicaid enrollees for whom such
22	eligibility verification is allowed by federal policy.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24	secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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)]

HCR 43 Original

2019 Regular Session

Bacala

Urges and requests the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health to reconsider the department's election to exclude roughly two-thirds of the state's Medicaid enrollees from quarterly income eligibility verification.