
DIGEST

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Burrell

HB No. 449

Abstract: Provides for a time-limited expansion of Medicaid eligibility standards in La. to conform such standards to those provided in the Affordable Care Act until Dec. 31, 2016.

Proposed law requires the secretary of DHH to take such actions as are necessary to expand Louisiana's Medicaid eligibility standards to conform to those established by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) commencing on January 1, 2014. Provides that such actions by the secretary shall include:

- (1) On or before September 1, 2013, filing of the Medicaid state plan amendment necessary to expand Medicaid eligibility in accordance with proposed law.
- (2) On or before September 1, 2013, promulgating all rules and regulations as are necessary to expand Medicaid eligibility in accordance with proposed law.

Proposed law declares that the purposes of the state in expanding Medicaid eligibility as provided in proposed law are as follows:

- (1) To maximize the number of Louisianians who are covered by some form of health insurance.
- (2) To provide basic health coverage to the working poor of the state who are not offered insurance through their employer and do not earn enough money to meet basic family needs and pay for private health insurance.
- (3) To assure health care providers who serve low- to moderate-income persons of some amount of compensation for the care they provide, as the ACA provides for a dramatic reduction in funding to federal programs which currently finance care for the uninsured as a means of financing the Medicaid expansion.
- (4) To avail the state of an expanding resource for medical care for its neediest citizens while other sources of financing for such care are being drastically diminished.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall terminate on Dec. 31, 2016. Further, authorizes the secretary of DHH to revise the Medicaid income eligibility threshold to any level allowed by federal law other than that required by preceding provisions of proposed law, and to cause such revised income eligibility threshold to take effect no sooner than Jan. 1, 2017.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 46:979.1-979.5)