



Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 1121

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 21, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 1121 is a reintroduction of LB 625 (2005). The bill adopts the Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities Act (act). The bill defines terms.

The bill requires the payment of medical assistance on behalf of a person with a disability who is employed, including an employed individual with a medically improved condition, whose family income is less than 450% of federal poverty level. Allowable assets for participation in the program are (a) \$20,000 for a family of one, (b) \$30,000 for a family of two, and (c) \$40,000 for a family of three or more.

Recipients whose family income is 100% of the federal poverty level may be required to pay a premium in an amount established by the department in rules and regulations using a sliding-fee or tiered-fee approach, but the premium may not exceed 7% of the recipient family's unearned income plus 3% of the recipient family's earned income.

In order to increase the utilization and effectiveness of the program, the department must (1) provide education and training about the program to all appropriate staff; (2) conduct outreach and education about the availability and benefits of the program focused on the populations that can benefit from the program; (3) submit an annual report to the Legislature and Governor to show the effectiveness of the program in achieving the purpose for which it was established; and (4) establish a Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities Program Advisory Committee to advise the department regarding implementation of the act.

The department is required to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the act.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Joel T. Johnson