
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 910

AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR POST-PARTUM CARE TO TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A MEDICAID BENEFICIARY GIVES BIRTH TO A CHILD.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner, to the extent federal law permits, to extend Medicaid coverage for post-partum care to 12 months after a mother gives birth. Under current practice, DSS provides post-partum coverage to these Medicaid beneficiaries for 60 days post-birth, in accordance with federal law (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, the extended post-partum coverage applies to women who are Medicaid eligible due to their pregnancies. The bill requires the commissioner to either amend the Medicaid state plan or apply for a Section 1115 waiver, whichever is permitted under federal law and most expeditious, in order to provide the state with federal reimbursement for the extended post-partum care.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND

Federal Laws on Post-Partum Medicaid Coverage

Generally, federal law requires states to provide pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries continued coverage for 60 days post-birth (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(e)(4)). However, the recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) allows states to amend their Medicaid state plans or waivers to extend this post-partum coverage from 60 days to 12 months post-birth. Under the act, states may provide this optional extended coverage for a five-year period, beginning in federal fiscal year 2023. Under the federal law, states that opt to do so must also extend post-partum coverage in the same manner in their Children's

Health Insurance Programs (CHIP)(in Connecticut, HUSKY B).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/09/2021)