
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 956

AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide medical assistance, within available appropriations, to people regardless of their immigration status, as long as they otherwise meet income eligibility guidelines for HUSKY A, C, and D (see BACKGROUND).

Under current law, children in households with incomes above 196% of the federal poverty limit (FPL) and up to 318% FPL may be eligible for benefits under HUSKY B. The bill authorizes HUSKY B eligibility regardless of immigration status. In practice, HUSKY B is the program through which DSS distributes federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits. Under federal law, CHIP coverage is generally available to certain lawfully present non-citizens and unavailable to those who are undocumented.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND

HUSKY A

HUSKY A provides Medicaid coverage to:

1. parents and caretaker relatives with a household income of up to 155% of FPL (CGS § 17b-261(a));
2. children under age 19 with household income of up to 196% of FPL (CGS § 17b-261(a)); and
3. pregnant women with household income of up to 258% of FPL (CGS § 17b-277(a)).

HUSKY C

HUSKY C provides Medicaid coverage to adults who are age 65 and older, blind, or living with a disability. HUSKY C income limits are based on the state's family cash assistance benefit (i.e., Temporary Family Assistance (TFA)) for the region where the applicant lives (CGS § 17b-261(a)). Specifically, the income limit is 143% of the TFA benefit for the region with a standard monthly income disregard. Currently, the monthly income limit is generally less than 100% of FPL, but higher for institutionalized individuals.

HUSKY D

HUSKY D provides Medicaid coverage to low-income adults, ages 18 to 64, who are not pregnant (CGS § 17b-290(16)). The HUSKY D income limit is 133% of FPL.

Related Bill

sSB 1056, favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, generally increases the income limit for Medicaid to 200% of FPL.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (04/01/2021)