



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 256

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 313

Senate, April 4, 2024

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. LESSER of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUOUS MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 17b-292 of the 2024 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

4 (e) (1) The commissioner shall implement presumptive eligibility for
5 children applying for Medicaid and may, if cost effective, implement
6 presumptive eligibility for children in households with income not
7 exceeding three hundred eighteen per cent of the federal poverty level
8 applying for HUSKY B. Such presumptive eligibility determinations
9 shall be in accordance with applicable federal law and regulations. The
10 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to
11 establish standards and procedures for the designation of an
12 organization as a qualified entity to grant presumptive eligibility. A
13 qualified entity shall, at the time a presumptive eligibility determination
14 is made, provide assistance to applicants with the completion and

15 submission of an application for a full eligibility determination. In
 16 establishing such standards and procedures, the commissioner shall
 17 ensure the representation of state-wide and local organizations that
 18 provide services to children of all ages in each region of the state.

19 (2) The commissioner shall provide continuous eligibility for the
 20 Medicaid program to any child who has been determined eligible for
 21 the program until such child reaches the age of six. Thereafter, the
 22 commissioner shall determine such child's eligibility for Medicaid in
 23 accordance with the provisions of chapter 319v.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2024	17b-292(e)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (e)(2), "under the age of six" was deleted for clarity.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	up to \$950,000	\$6.5 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the Department of Social Services (DSS) due to requiring continuous eligibility under Medicaid for children up to age six. DSS would incur initial costs of up to \$950,000 in FY 25 to support waiver development and system costs associated with extended eligibility requirements. Maintaining support for children who would have otherwise exited the program is estimated to cost approximately \$6.5 million in FY 26.¹

The Out Years

Costs will continue to increase annually until approximately FY 30 when program costs are annualized. This is estimated to result in state costs of up to \$55 million. The actual cost is dependent on the number of children up to age six who remain on Medicaid who would have otherwise exited the program.

¹ Assumes 0.2 percent of children under age 6 would exit the program each month.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 313

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUOUS MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to provide continuous Medicaid eligibility for qualifying children until age six. Once a child is six, his or her Medicaid eligibility must be redetermined annually according to state law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

Continuous Eligibility

Continuous eligibility allows a person to remain enrolled in Medicaid for a specific period of time even if his or her income changes. Federal law requires all states to provide 12 months of continuous eligibility for children under the age of 19. States may apply for a Medicaid waiver for federal approval to extend continuous eligibility to children for multiple years.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 7 (03/19/2024)