



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 4259



Offered by:

SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. COHEN, 12th Dist.

SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
SEN. WINFIELD, 10th Dist.
SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 397

File No. 337

Cal. No. 219

"AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CARE."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
4 (1) "Title I" means Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Act, P.L. 89-10, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L.114-
6 95, and (2) "Title I school" means a school with a high percentage of
7 students from low-income households that qualifies for federal financial
8 assistance under Title I.

9 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the
10 Commissioner of Education, shall seek federal approval for a Medicaid
11 waiver to provide Medicaid coverage for health care of any student at a
12 Title I school and any student at a school who qualifies for free or

13 reduced price lunches regardless of whether such student qualifies for
14 services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC
15 1400 et seq., as amended from time to time, or Medicaid income
16 eligibility guidelines. The commissioner shall seek approval for such
17 waiver in accordance with section 17b-8 of the general statutes not later
18 than October 1, 2024.

19 (c) To the extent permissible under federal law and within available
20 appropriations, a student shall automatically be enrolled in Medicaid
21 coverage provided pursuant to subsection (b) of this section unless such
22 student's parent or legal guardian opts out of such coverage. The
23 commissioner shall include a request for such automatic enrollment in
24 the Medicaid waiver submitted to the Centers for Medicare and
25 Medicaid Services pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The
26 Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of
27 Social Services, shall develop an "opt out" form for the parent or legal
28 guardian of any student who does not wish the student to have health
29 care services covered under Medicaid. The Commissioner of Education
30 shall make such form available via United States mail or on the Internet
31 web site of the Department of Education in multiple languages,
32 including, but not limited to, English, Polish, French, Portuguese,
33 Spanish and other languages consistent with the demographic profile of
34 students enrolled in bilingual education programs in kindergarten
35 through twelfth grade in the state.

36 (d) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
37 Commissioner of Social Services, shall develop a list of health care
38 services eligible for Medicaid reimbursement to be disseminated to each
39 local or regional board of education.

40 (e) Not later than January first annually, the Commissioner of Social
41 Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Education, shall file
42 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
43 statutes, on Medicaid reimbursement for school health care services
44 with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
45 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state

46 agencies, children, education and human services. The report shall
47 include recommendations on expanding Medicaid health care services
48 provided in schools.

49 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Commissioner of Social
50 Services shall amend the Medicaid state plan to provide Medicaid
51 coverage for health care services provided to an eligible student in the
52 office of a school nurse.

53 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
54 interagency coalition to coordinate and make recommendations
55 concerning maximizing federal funding for Medicaid-eligible health
56 care services in public schools in the state.

57 (b) The coalition shall convene not later than sixty days after the
58 effective date of this section and shall meet at least quarterly. The
59 coalition shall consist of:

60 (1) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

61 (2) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
62 designee; and

63 (3) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
64 secretary's designee.

65 (c) Not later than January first annually, the coalition shall file a
66 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
67 statutes, with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
68 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets
69 of state agencies, children, education and human services. The report
70 shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The number of school
71 children receiving Medicaid-covered health care services in the prior
72 school year and any increase or decrease in the percentage of such
73 students per total student enrollment; (2) steps taken to expand
74 Medicaid coverage of student health care services, including, but not
75 limited to, any Medicaid waivers or state plan amendments; and (3) a

76 survey of efforts in other states to expand Medicaid-covered health care
77 services for students."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section