

Proposal for Legislation -- 2011

Re: Implementation of Federal Health Care Reform

Return to:

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1. What is the problem or issue?

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (the Affordable Care Act) expands the joint federal-state Medicaid Program by creating a new eligibility group. Currently a person is eligible for Medicaid only if the person is aged, blind or disabled or the caretaker of a minor child in addition to meeting financial criteria for eligibility. Coverage under the new eligibility group will be available to adults who have limited income and assets without regard to disability, blindness, advanced age or parental status. The Affordable Care Act requires states to provide coverage under the new eligibility group by January 2014 and gives states the option of providing coverage under the new group after April 1, 2010.

2. What do you want the legislation to do?

Amend the statute that sets forth the eligibility requirements for Medicaid to provide that adults who meet financial and other criteria such as Montana residency do not have to be aged, blind or disabled or the caretaker of a minor child in order to qualify for Medicaid.

3. If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.

Section 53-6-131

4. If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose?

Currently the federal share of Montana's Medicaid expenditures is approximately 70%. The Affordable Care Act provides an increased federal match for expenditures for at least some individuals in the new coverage group, but the amount of the increased match is not yet known. The state's share of funding for individuals in the new group will have to come from general fund appropriations.

5. Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.

Similar legislation has not been requested.