

2017 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 188

BY SENATOR HEWITT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MEDICAID. Provides relative to Medicaid recipient work requirements. (8/1/17)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:460.53, relative to Medicaid recipient work requirements; to provide for  
3 a waiver; to provide for legislative intent; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 46:460.53 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

6 **§460.53. Medicaid recipient work requirements**

7 **A. The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit an**  
8 **1115 waiver request to the United States Department of Health and Human**  
9 **Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, hereinafter referred to**  
10 **as "CMS", to implement a demonstration project in which certain Medicaid**  
11 **recipients who are able-bodied adults must meet certain work requirements as**  
12 **a condition of maintaining eligibility.**

13 **B. The 1115 waiver submitted pursuant to Subsection A of this Section**  
14 **shall require that able-bodied adults participate in a community engagement**  
15 **and employment initiative to maintain Medicaid eligibility and enrollment. The**  
16 **hours required to satisfy this mandate shall be no less than twenty hours per**  
17 **week, and may be implemented in a phase-in or all-at-once program as deemed**

1 most effective by the secretary. In no event shall a phase in last for more than  
2 one year. Children, pregnant women, individuals determined medically frail,  
3 and adults who are the primary caregiver of a dependent, including a minor  
4 child or an adult dependent with disabilities, shall be exempt from the  
5 community engagement and employment initiative.

6 C. The purpose of the demonstration project is to ensure that able-  
7 bodied adults who receive health care coverage and benefits through the  
8 Louisiana Medicaid program participate in a community engagement and  
9 employment initiative aimed at increasing workforce participation rates in  
10 Louisiana. Meaningful work and participating as a contributing member of  
11 society is a critical part of an individual's overall health and quality of life.

12 D. The CMS has acknowledged that the best way to improve long-term  
13 health of low-income Americans is to empower them with skills and  
14 employment. The agency supports innovative approaches by states to increase  
15 employment and community engagement and is committed to programs that  
16 have demonstrated success in assisting eligible low-income adult beneficiaries  
17 to improve their economic standing and materially advance their lives to rise  
18 out of poverty.

19 E. "Able-bodied adult" means a nondisabled adult without dependents  
20 who is age nineteen to sixty-four years with an income below one hundred  
21 thirty-eight percent of the federal poverty level.

22 F. "Community engagement and employment initiative" means  
23 volunteer work, employment, caretaking, job training, education, or job search  
24 activities made available through public or private entities that can be verified  
25 by the department.

