
DIGEST

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HB 46 Original

2018 Regular Session

Lance Harris

Abstract: Establishes participation in a work or community engagement activity as a condition of Medicaid eligibility for certain able-bodied adult enrollees.

Proposed law provides legislative findings and a declaration concerning health effects associated with productive work and community engagement.

Proposed law defines "able-bodied adult" as an adult without a disability who is 19 to 64 years of age.

Proposed law establishes a work and community engagement initiative within the Medicaid program. Requires participation in a work or community engagement activity specified in proposed law as a condition of Medicaid eligibility for able-bodied adult enrollees without dependents. Provides for duties of the secretary of the La. Department of Health (LDH) in administering the work and community engagement initiative established by proposed law.

Proposed law stipulates that, subject to certain exemptions provided therein, no able-bodied adult without a dependent shall be eligible for Medicaid benefits unless he meets one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Is working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly.
- (2) Is participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week.
- (3) Is volunteering for 20 hours or more per week.
- (4) Is meeting any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours or more per week.
- (5) Is participating and complying with the requirements of a workfare program.

Proposed law provides that the work and community engagement requirements created by proposed law shall not apply to any individual if he or she meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment.

- (2) Is pregnant.
- (3) Is a parent or caretaker responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of one year.
- (4) Is a parent or caretaker personally providing care for a dependent child with a disability or serious medical condition.
- (5) Is receiving unemployment compensation and complying with applicable work requirements of present law relative to employment security (R.S. 23:1471 et seq.).
- (6) Is participating in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program.

Proposed law requires the secretary of LDH to prepare and submit to the federal Medicaid agency on or before Jan. 1, 2019, the application necessary to institute the program provided for in proposed law. Further requires the secretary to promulgate all rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act as are necessary to institute the program.

Proposed law provides that it shall be known as the "Medicaid Incentives for Work and Community Engagement Law".

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 46:460.101-460.106)