

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 480

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

MEDICAID: Provides for Medicaid eligibility determination functions and Medicaid fraud detection and prevention

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 24:513(P), R.S. 36:254(A)(6)(c) and (d), Subpart D-2 of Part VI-A of Chapter
3 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S.
4 46:440.9.1 through 440.9.4, and R.S. 47:1508(B)(42), relative to Medicaid program
5 integrity; to provide relative to the eligibility determination functions of the
6 Louisiana Medicaid program; to provide for duties of the secretary of the Louisiana
7 Department of Health in administering the Medicaid program; to authorize the
8 Louisiana Department of Revenue to share state income tax return data with the
9 Louisiana Department of Health and the legislative auditor for certain limited
10 purposes; to require the Louisiana Department of Health to utilize such data in the
11 Medicaid eligibility determination process; to authorize the legislative auditor to
12 utilize such data for purposes of Medicaid fraud detection and prevention; to provide
13 for interagency agreements relative to sharing of data; to provide for implementation
14 of certain functions prescribed by the Medical Assistance Programs Integrity Law;
15 and to provide for related matters.

16 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

17 Section 1. R.S. 24:513(P) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

18 §513. Powers and duties of legislative auditor; audit reports as public records;
19 assistance and opinions of attorney general; frequency of audits; subpoena
20 power

* * *

P. The legislative auditor may access individual-level state income tax return data in accordance with R.S. 47:1508(B)(42) for the limited purposes of ensuring accuracy of Medicaid eligibility determinations, detecting and preventing fraud in the Medicaid program, and fulfilling all other applicable requirements of the Medical Assistance Programs Integrity Law, R.S. 46:437.1 et seq.

Section 2. R.S. 36:254(A)(6)(c) and (d) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§254. Powers and duties of the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health

A. In addition to the functions, powers, and duties otherwise vested in the secretary by law, he shall:

* * *

(6)

* * *

(c) Take such actions as are necessary to ensure accuracy in medical assistance program eligibility determinations.

(d) Work cooperatively with other departments and officials of the state, including but not limited to the attorney general, the legislative auditor, and the Louisiana Department of Revenue, in detecting and preventing fraud in the medical assistance program and fulfilling all other applicable requirements of the Medical Assistance Programs Integrity Law, R.S. 46:437.1 et seq.

* * *

Section 3. Subpart D-2 of Part VI-A of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:440.9.1 through 440.9.4, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART D-2. MEDICAID PROGRAM INTEGRITY

IN ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS

§440.9.1. Legislative findings; intent

A. The legislature hereby finds and affirms all of the following:

1 (1) Fraud, waste, and abuse in the Louisiana Medicaid program divert public
2 resources that could otherwise be used for legitimate health services for those with
3 the greatest needs in our state.

4 (2) The United States Government Accountability Office estimates that in
5 federal fiscal year 2016, the proportion of federal Medicaid spending comprised of
6 improper payments was approximately ten and one-half percent, equating to thirty-
7 six billion taxpayer dollars lost to Medicaid fraud, waste, abuse, and other improper
8 expenditures.

9 (3) An October, 2017, analysis by the Louisiana Department of Revenue
10 which examined 2016 Louisiana income tax return data for the entire population of
11 adult Medicaid recipients, comprised of approximately eight hundred sixty thousand
12 individuals, found all of the following:

13 (a) That the self-attested income shown on the Medicaid applications of
14 approximately twenty-five percent of adult Medicaid enrollees differed by at least
15 twenty thousand dollars from the income shown on their state income tax returns.

16 (b) That the self-attested household size shown on the Medicaid applications
17 of more than half of adult Medicaid enrollees did not reconcile with the number of
18 exemptions shown on their state income tax returns.

19 (4)(a) The January, 2018, report of the Louisiana task force on coordination
20 of Medicaid fraud detection and prevention initiatives issued in accordance with R.S.
21 46:440.4 et seq. identifies all of the following as high-priority needs in this state:

22 (i) The need to strengthen Medicaid eligibility determination processes.

23 (ii) The need to better coordinate interagency efforts to prevent fraud, waste,
24 and abuse in the Medicaid program.

25 (iii) The need to strengthen oversight and tighten controls in the Medicaid
26 managed care program.

27 (b) The January, 2018, report of the Louisiana task force on coordination of
28 Medicaid fraud detection and prevention initiatives sets forth all of the following
29 recommendations:

1 (i) The Louisiana Department of Revenue and the Louisiana Department of
2 Health should improve their cooperation, coordination, and data sharing agreements
3 for the purpose of providing the Louisiana Department of Health with additional
4 tools to properly determine the eligibility of persons for Medicaid benefits.

5 (ii) The Louisiana Department of Health should develop a standardized
6 process for reporting the results of its eligibility fraud reviews to both the attorney
7 general and the legislative auditor for the purpose of allowing those agencies an
8 opportunity to further pursue potential fraud cases as authorized or required by law.

9 (iii) The Louisiana Department of Health should continue to work with the
10 Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
11 Services to share data in order to take advantage of resources available through the
12 partnership such as results of studies that identify potentially fraudulent activity.
13 Further, the department should cause the Medicaid managed care organizations with
14 which it contracts to participate in the Healthcare Fraud Prevention Partnership, as
15 combining data maintained by the department and the managed care organizations
16 with data of other partnership members will contribute to a comprehensive fraud,
17 waste, and abuse detection and prevention system.

18 B. The intent of this Subpart is to enhance the overall integrity of the
19 Louisiana Medicaid program through necessary reforms to the program's eligibility
20 determination functions.

21 §440.9.2. Medicaid eligibility determinations; utilization of state income tax return
22 data

23 A. The Louisiana Department of Health shall utilize state income tax return
24 data in the process of determining all of the following:

- 25 (1) A Medicaid applicant's initial eligibility for Medicaid benefits.
26 (2) A Medicaid enrollee's continued eligibility for Medicaid benefits at the
27 time of his eligibility redetermination.

1 B. The Louisiana Department of Health shall utilize state income tax return
2 data including, but not limited to, income and dependent information in its Medicaid
3 eligibility determination process.

4 §440.9.3. Data sharing agreement with the Louisiana Department of Revenue

5 The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall enter into any
6 memorandum of understanding, cooperative endeavor, or other type of agreement
7 as may be necessary to facilitate mutual sharing of data with the Louisiana
8 Department of Revenue for the purposes set forth in this Subpart.

9 §440.9.4. Reasonable compatibility

10 A. For purposes of this Section, "reasonable compatibility" refers to the
11 result of a reconciliation of discrepancies between a Medicaid applicant's
12 self-attestation about his financial information and the information reported by the
13 electronic data sources which a state Medicaid agency utilizes in its eligibility
14 determination process.

15 B. With respect to the income verification function of the Medicaid
16 eligibility determination process, the Louisiana Department of Health shall ensure
17 that the electronically reported income of any applicant or enrollee approved for
18 initial or continuing Medicaid eligibility does not exceed his self-attested income by
19 more than ten percent.

20 C. The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall take all such
21 actions as are necessary, including but not limited to submission of Medicaid state
22 plan amendments and promulgation of administrative rules, to ensure that the
23 reasonable compatibility standard provided for in this Section is implemented.

24 Section 4. R.S. 47:1508(B)(42) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

25 §1508. Confidentiality of tax records

26 * * *

27 B. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent:

28 * * *

1 (42)(a) The secretary from disclosing individual-level state income tax return
2 data to the legislative auditor or the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health
3 exclusively for the purposes specified in this Paragraph.

4 (b) The legislative auditor and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of
5 Health shall utilize data disclosed pursuant to this Paragraph for the following
6 purposes, exclusively:

7 (i) Ensuring accuracy of Medicaid eligibility determinations.
8 (ii) Detecting and preventing fraud in the Medicaid program.
9 (iii) Fulfilling the requirements of the Medical Assistance Programs Integrity
10 Law, R.S. 46:437.1 et seq.

11 (c) The secretary may enter into any memorandum of understanding,
12 cooperative endeavor, or other type of agreement as may be necessary to facilitate
13 the sharing of data with the legislative auditor and the secretary of the Louisiana
14 Department of Health, respectively, for the purposes set forth in this Paragraph.

15 Section 5. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
19 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 480 Original

2018 Regular Session

Bacala

Abstract: Provides for program integrity in Medicaid eligibility determination functions, Medicaid fraud detection and prevention, and interagency data sharing in furtherance of those purposes.

Proposed law presents legislative findings relative to fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicaid program, and concerning recommendations of the La. task force on coordination of Medicaid fraud detection and prevention initiatives.

Proposed law provides that its purpose is to enhance the overall integrity of the La. Medicaid program through necessary reforms to the program's eligibility determination functions.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to utilize state income tax return data in the process of determining all of the following:

- (1) A Medicaid applicant's initial eligibility for Medicaid benefits.
- (2) A Medicaid enrollee's continued eligibility for Medicaid benefits at the time of his eligibility redetermination.

Proposed law requires that LDH utilize state income tax return data including, but not limited to, income and dependent information in its Medicaid eligibility determination process.

Proposed law requires the secretary of LDH to enter into any memorandum of understanding, cooperative endeavor, or other type of agreement as may be necessary to facilitate mutual sharing of data with the La. Department of Revenue for the purposes set forth in proposed law.

With respect to the income verification function of the Medicaid eligibility determination process, proposed law requires LDH to ensure that the electronically reported income of any applicant or enrollee approved for initial or continuing Medicaid eligibility does not exceed his self-attested income by more than 10%.

Present law, R.S. 47:1508(A), provides that the records and files of the secretary of the La. Department of Revenue are confidential and privileged, and that no person shall divulge or disclose any information obtained from such records and files except as authorized by present law.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of the La. Dept. of Revenue to disclose individual-level state income tax return data to the legislative auditor or the secretary of LDH for the following purposes exclusively:

- (1) Ensuring accuracy of Medicaid eligibility determinations.
- (2) Detecting and preventing fraud in the Medicaid program.
- (3) Fulfilling the requirements of present law relative to Medicaid program integrity, R.S. 46:437.1 et seq.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of the La. Dept. of Revenue to enter into any memorandum of understanding, cooperative endeavor, or other type of agreement as may be necessary to facilitate sharing of data with the legislative auditor and the secretary of LDH, respectively, for the purposes set forth in proposed law.

Present law, R.S. 24:513, provides for the powers and duties of the legislative auditor.

Proposed law retains present law and adds thereto an authorization for the legislative auditor to access individual-level state income tax return data, in accordance with proposed law, for the following purposes:

- (1) Ensuring accuracy of Medicaid eligibility determinations
- (2) Detecting and preventing fraud in the Medicaid program
- (3) Fulfilling all other applicable requirements of present law relative to Medicaid program integrity, R.S. 46:437.1 et seq.

Present law, R.S. 36:254, provides for the powers and duties of the secretary of LDH.

Proposed law retains present law and adds thereto the following duties:

- (1) To take such actions as are necessary to ensure accuracy in Medicaid eligibility determinations.
- (2) To work cooperatively with other departments and officials of the state, including but not limited to the attorney general, the legislative auditor, and the La. Dept. of Revenue, in detecting and preventing Medicaid fraud and fulfilling all other applicable requirements of present law relative to Medicaid program integrity, R.S. 46:437.1 et seq.

(Adds R.S. 24:513(P), R.S. 36:254(A)(6)(c) and (d), R.S. 46:440.9.1-440.9.4, and R.S. 47:1508(B)(42))