
DIGEST

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HB 199 Original

2019 Regular Session

Horton

Abstract: Requires the La. Department of Health to institute the TEFRA option for serving children with disabilities through a Medicaid demonstration waiver program.

Proposed law indicates that its purpose is to provide for a demonstration waiver program through which children with disabilities can access Medicaid-funded services regardless of their parents' income.

Proposed law defines "TEFRA option" as the program authorized under section 134 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, and provided for more specifically in proposed law, which furnishes Medicaid benefits to children with disabilities who are otherwise ineligible for such benefits because the income of their household exceeds state-established limits for Medicaid eligibility.

Proposed law requires the La. Department of Health (LDH) to develop and submit to the federal Medicaid agency on or before Jan. 1, 2020, an application for a Medicaid demonstration waiver to implement a TEFRA option program. Requires LDH to establish the eligibility factors and benefits of the TEFRA option program in accordance with the requirements and specifications of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that in order to be eligible for the TEFRA option, a child shall meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) He is a La. resident and U.S. citizen.
- (2) He is under the age of 19.
- (3) He has a disability that is recognized under the definition of disability utilized in the Supplemental Security Income program of the Social Security Administration, regardless of whether he is eligible to receive benefits under that program.
- (4) He is ineligible for Medicaid coverage when the income of his parents is considered.
- (5) Excluding the assets of his parents, he does not have assets exceeding \$2,000 in value.
- (6) Due to his disability, he requires a level of care provided in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or intermediate care facility; however, care provided outside of such an institution

may be appropriate.

- (7) The cost of his care provided at his home is less than the cost of institutional care.

Proposed law requires that the TEFRA option provide to eligible children coverage for all Medicaid state plan services.

(Adds R.S. 46:977.21-977.25)