
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1941

Brief Description: Providing for health home services for medicaid-eligible children with medically complex conditions.

Sponsors: Representatives Couture, Schmidt, Reed, Graham, Barnard, Kloba, Cheney, Riccelli, Pollet, Griffey and Jacobsen.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires the Health Care Authority to submit a state plan amendment to allow Medicaid-eligible children with medically complex conditions to voluntarily enroll in a health home.

Hearing Date: 1/17/24

Staff: Kim Weidenaar (786-7120).

Background:

Medicaid State Plan.

Medicaid is a program funded jointly by states and the federal government that provides health coverage to a variety of populations including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities. Medicaid is administered by states, according to federal requirements. Federal law sets broad requirements for the program and mandates coverage of some populations and benefits, while leaving others optional. States then make operational and policy decisions that determine who is eligible for enrollment, which services are covered, and how payments are set.

Each state specifies the nature and scope of its Medicaid program through a state plan that must be submitted and approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

order for the state to access federal Medicaid funds. The state plan can be amended as needed to reflect changes in state policy and federal law and regulation through state plan amendments (SPAs). In implementing a state's Medicaid program, states are required to comply with Medicaid requirements for statewideness, comparability, and freedom of choice unless the state has received a waiver of these provisions through the CMS.

Medicaid health home benefit for children with medically complex conditions.

The Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 authorized states to cover an optional health home state plan benefit for Medicaid-eligible children with medically complex conditions. Beginning October 1, 2022, states were able to offer the new health home services benefit for children with medically complex conditions, which includes providing access to the full range of pediatric specialty and subspecialty medical services, person-centered care management, care coordination, and patient and family support, including services from out-of-state providers, as medically necessary. States with an approved Medicaid SPA to cover the new health home benefit will receive a 15-percentage point increase in federal matching for their expenditures on health home services during the first two fiscal year quarters that the SPA is in effect.

Summary of Bill:

By October 1, 2024, the Health Care Authority (HCA) must submit a state plan amendment (SPA) to the CMS to allow Medicaid-eligible children with medically complex conditions to voluntarily enroll in a health home as provided in the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019.

By December 1, 2024, the HCA must submit a status report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature regarding the approval of the SPA. The status report must include:

- a summary of the HCA's state plan amendment proposal, including the proposed payment methodology and expected timeline for approval;
- financial modeling information for the implementation of the SPA, including state cost estimates, expected federal matching funds, and anticipated federal state planning grants; and
- expected utilization for the program and whether anticipated availability of health home providers meeting federal requirements will be sufficient to meet patient need.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 10, 2024.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.