

HB 1199

2023

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Medicaid eligibility for young
3 adults; providing legislative findings; requiring the
4 Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation
5 with the Commission on Mental Health and Substance
6 Abuse, to conduct a study for a specified purpose;
7 providing requirements for the study; providing duties
8 for the agency based on the findings in the study;
9 requiring the agency to submit a report of the
10 findings and its recommendations to the Governor and
11 the Legislature by a specified date; providing an
12 effective date.

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. (1) The Legislature recognizes that there
17 exists a health insurance coverage gap for certain young adults
18 18 to 26 years of age who are unable to receive coverage for
19 behavioral health services and primary and preventative care
20 through a parent and are also unable to personally obtain health
21 insurance through an employer or through Medicaid due to the
22 program's income eligibility criteria. The Legislature also
23 finds that young adults would benefit from increased access to
24 behavioral health services as well as primary and preventative
25 care, promoting better long-term physical and mental health

26 outcomes.

27 (2) The Agency for Health Care Administration, in
 28 consultation with the Commission on Mental Health and Substance
 29 Abuse created under s. 394.9086, Florida Statutes, shall conduct
 30 a study to assess the potential impacts of adjusting the
 31 Medicaid income eligibility criteria to include coverage for
 32 young adults 18 to 26 years of age who are affected by the
 33 health insurance coverage gap because they are unable to receive
 34 coverage through a parent and are also unable to personally
 35 obtain health insurance coverage through an employer or through
 36 Medicaid due to the program's income eligibility criteria. In
 37 its study, the agency shall, at a minimum, do all of the
 38 following:

39 (a) Identify the estimated number of young adults who are
 40 affected by the health insurance coverage gap on average each
 41 year. The agency shall use any relevant data available from the
 42 preceding 5 years and shall conduct additional assessment
 43 surveys, as needed, to make a reasonable determination under
 44 this paragraph.

45 (b) Estimate the additional costs to the Medicaid program
 46 as a result of expanding coverage for behavioral health services
 47 and primary and preventative care to include such young adults,
 48 identifying any factors that may offset such costs.

49 (c) To the extent possible, determine the behavioral
 50 health needs of such young adults which go unaddressed each year

51 as a result of not having health insurance coverage.

52 (d) To the extent possible, identify any correlation
53 between unaddressed behavioral and physical health needs of
54 young adults affected by the health insurance coverage gap and
55 their use of urgent care and emergency room services when
56 compared to peers who have health insurance coverage.

57 (3) Based on the findings in the study, the agency shall:

58 (a) Assess data to ascertain the behavioral and physical
59 health needs of young adults 18 to 26 years of age affected by
60 the health insurance coverage gap.

61 (b) Identify evidence-based interventions to address the
62 specific needs of such young adults and increase access to
63 behavioral health care and primary and preventative care,
64 including, but not limited to, any pilot programs that may be
65 implemented in this state.

66 (c) Develop a strategic, data-driven approach to
67 addressing behavioral health care access and costs for targeted
68 at-risk populations that will benefit from early intervention.

69 (d) Make recommendations on whether the Medicaid program
70 can sustain an increase of income eligibility criteria for young
71 adults 18 to 26 years of age affected by the health insurance
72 coverage gap, and, if so, to what extent the income eligibility
73 criteria should be increased.

74 (e) Identify any legislative barriers to implementing the
75 agency's recommendations.

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76 (4) The agency shall submit a report of its findings and
77 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
78 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1,
79 2024.

80 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.