

House Bill 37

By: Representatives Beverly of the 143rd, Mitchell of the 88th, Park of the 107th, Scott of the 76th, Bennett of the 94th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical assistance generally provided as public assistance, so as to provide for the
3 Department of Community Health to mitigate the potential loss of Medicaid coverage caused
4 by the discontinuation of the continuous enrollment condition of the federal Families First
5 Coronavirus Response Act by providing, continuing, and expanding services; to provide for
6 definitions; to provide for training; to provide for notices; to provide for processes; to provide
7 for technology enhancements; to provide for communications; to provide for related matters;
8 to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 medical assistance generally provided as public assistance, is amended by adding a new Code
13 section to read as follows:

14 "49-4-159.2.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

16 (1) 'Beneficiary' means a recipient of Medicaid.

H. B. 37

17 (2) 'Continuous enrollment condition' means the federal requirement in Section 6008 of
18 the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127) which provides that, in order
19 to receive an increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, no state shall
20 disenroll any Medicaid recipient during the public health emergency, regardless of
21 changes in circumstances that would otherwise result in disenrollment.

22 (3) 'Department' means the Department of Community Health.

23 (4) 'Medicaid' means the program of medical assistance conducted pursuant to Article 7
24 of this chapter, the 'Georgia Medical Assistance Act of 1977.'

25 (5) 'Medicaid unwinding' means the process by which states resume regular Medicaid
26 eligibility reviews after the continuous enrollment condition expires.

27 (b) To mitigate the potential loss of coverage caused by Medicaid unwinding, the
28 department shall:

29 (1) Employ, train, and maintain a sufficient number of employees to ensure that
30 information is provided to a beneficiary and that the redetermination, renewal, or
31 termination of coverage for beneficiaries is handled in a timely and professional manner;

32 (2) Provide beneficiaries notice of their redetermination of eligibility for Medicaid
33 coverage, information on how to submit an application for Medicaid comprehensive
34 coverage, and information on other health insurance programs available to such
35 beneficiaries;

36 (3) Streamline processes for determining eligibility for Medicaid coverage, including
37 communications regarding eligibility and the management of grievances and appeals;

38 (4) Redetermine eligibility of a beneficiary on all bases before determining the individual
39 is ineligible for Medicaid and subsequently terminating coverage;

40 (5) Implement technology enhancements to facilitate the dissemination of information
41 to beneficiaries and to improve the processing of redetermination, renewal, and
42 termination of coverage for beneficiaries;

43 (6) Provide a call center to handle questions from beneficiaries, business partners, and
44 the public regarding Medicaid unwinding;

45 (7) Create and maintain a public dashboard for reporting data elements as required under
46 federal law; and

47 (8) Engage various communications channels, including using media, partners, and
48 community based organizations, to disseminate information regarding eligibility of
49 beneficiaries and the availability of services and other health insurance programs for
50 beneficiaries.

51 (c) To the extent practicable, the department shall provide information and services in
52 English and at least one non-English language."

53 **SECTION 2.**

54 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
55 without such approval.

56 **SECTION 3.**

57 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.