

2022 -- S 2196

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES – MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Introduced By: Senators Cano, Lawson, Quezada, Anderson, Seveney, DiMario, Burke,
DiPalma, Kallman, and Murray

Date Introduced: February 08, 2022

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40-8 of the General Laws entitled "Medical Assistance" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **40-8-3.2. Eligibility for Medicare savings programs.**

4 (a) Beginning July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the secretary of the executive office of
5 health and human services shall increase income disregards used to determine eligibility by the
6 department of human services for the federal Medicare Savings Programs administered in
7 accordance with the provisions of 42 U.S.C. 1396d(p) as follows:

8 (1) For the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program by an amount that equalizes the
9 income level at or below one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level;

10 (2) For the Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary Program by an amount that
11 equalizes the income level at or below two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty level;
12 and

13 (3) For the Qualifying Individual Program by an amount that equalizes the income level at
14 or below two-hundred and twenty-five percent (225%) of the federal poverty level.

15 (b) The secretary shall not apply an asset test for eligibility under the Medicare savings
16 programs.

17 (c) The secretary shall submit any Medicaid state plan amendment or waiver necessary to
18 implement the provisions of this section.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES – MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

1 This act would increase eligibility for the three (3) federal Medicare Savings Programs as
2 follows: (1) Increase to one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level for the
3 Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program that pays for a person’s Medicare Part B premium and
4 additional cost-sharing in Parts A and B; (2) Increase to two hundred percent (200%) of the federal
5 poverty level for the Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary Program that pays for a person’s
6 Part B premium; and (3) Increase to two hundred twenty-five percent (225%) of the federal poverty
7 level for the restricted Qualifying Individual Program that pays for a person’s Part B premium. The
8 act would also eliminate the asset test for these programs.

9 This act would take effect upon passage.

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