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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. M. Huffman

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Summary

- Revises the work and education requirement for individuals who enroll in Medicaid under the expansion eligibility group.
- Requires that an individual be employed at least 20 hours per week or enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education or an occupational training program to satisfy the requirement.
- Raises to 65 (from 55) the age an individual must be to be exempt from the requirement on the basis of age.
- Provides that, in order for an individual to be exempt on the basis of having an intensive physical health care need or serious mental illness, the individual must be medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment because of the condition.
- Creates a new exemption for an individual who personally provides care for a child under one year of age or a child who has a medical condition or disability that the Medicaid Director determines is serious enough to warrant an exemption.
- Expands the work and education requirement to apply to individuals who enroll in Medicaid under the parents and other caretaker relatives eligibility group.

Detailed Analysis

Work and education requirement for Medicaid

The bill revises a requirement that the Medicaid Director establish a Medicaid waiver program under which individuals must satisfy a work and education requirement to enroll in Medicaid as part of the expansion eligibility group. That group consists of individuals who have income not exceeding 138% of the federal poverty level and are under 65, not pregnant,

ineligible for Medicare Parts A and B, and not otherwise eligible for Medicaid.¹ The group is also known as Group VIII.

Current law requires the waiver, if approved by the federal government, to prohibit an individual from enrolling in Medicaid as part of the expansion eligibility group unless the individual is employed or enrolled in school or an occupational training program. An individual would be exempt if the individual is at least 55, is participating in an alcohol and addiction treatment program, or has intensive physical health care needs or serious mental illness.

Revised work and education requirement

To satisfy the work and education requirement under the bill, an individual must either be employed at least 20 hours per week, averaged monthly, or be enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education or an occupational training program.² An individual satisfies the requirement under current law by being employed or enrolled in school or an occupational training program.

Revised exemptions

The bill raises to 65 (from 55) the age an individual must be to be exempt from the work and education requirement on the basis of age. It provides that, in order for an individual to be exempt on the basis of having an intensive physical health care need or serious mental illness, the individual must be medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment because of the condition. It also exempts an individual who personally provides care for a child under one year of age, a child who has a medical condition or disability that the Medicaid Director determines is serious enough to warrant an exemption, or both. The bill maintains the exemption for individuals participating in an alcohol and drug addiction treatment program.³

Parents and other caretaker relatives eligibility group

The bill requires that the waiver also apply to the parents and other caretaker relatives eligibility group.⁴ This group consists of parents and caretaker relatives, and their spouses, who reside with a dependent child under 18 and have income not exceeding 90% of the federal poverty level.⁵ The terminology used to identify this group, "parents and other caretaker relatives," is established by a federal regulation and the bill revises a provision of current law that concerns the group to refer to the group using the federal terminology.⁶

¹ 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)(VIII).

² R.C. 5166.37(A)(1) and (2).

³ R.C. 5166.37(B).

⁴ R.C. 5166.37(A).

⁵ Ohio Administrative Code 5160:1-4-05.

⁶ R.C. 5163.01, 5163.07, and 5166.01.

Comment

In April 2018, the Medicaid Director applied to the federal government for the Medicaid waiver needed to implement the work and education requirement for the expansion eligibility group. The application is pending as of the date of this analysis. If this bill is enacted, the Medicaid Director would have to amend the waiver application to incorporate the changes the bill makes to the work and education requirement. The Medicaid Director has the authority under continuing law to submit the amendments to the federal government.⁷

History

Action	Date
Introduced	02-12-19

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⁷ R.C. 5162.07.