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Act No. 48 (H.430). Health; Agency of Human Services; Dr. Dynasaur-like coverage; children; pregnant individuals

An act relating to eligibility for Dr. Dynasaur-like coverage for all income-eligible children and pregnant individuals regardless of immigration status

This act requires the Agency of Human Services (AHS) to provide coverage equivalent to the coverage under the Dr. Dynasaur program to children and pregnant individuals who are not eligible for Dr. Dynasaur because of their immigration status. The coverage will become available beginning on July 1, 2022, subject to fiscal year 2023 appropriations. The act specifies that the same confidentiality provisions will apply to the new coverage as apply under the Medicaid program, except that it prohibits AHS from making information about applicants or enrollees available to the federal government.

To the extent that applicable funds are appropriated in the fiscal year 2022 budget (\$1.4 million in one-time funds were appropriated), the act directs AHS to use the funds in fiscal year 2022 for grants or reimbursements, or both, to health care providers for delivering health care services during fiscal year 2022 to children and pregnant individuals who are not eligible for Dr. Dynasaur because of their immigration status; for grants to Vermont organizations to provide outreach and information to the undocumented immigrant community and health care providers about opportunities for Vermont's children and pregnant individuals who are not eligible for Dr. Dynasaur because of their immigration status to access health care services at low or no cost during fiscal year 2022 and after and about the confidentiality of their records; and for implementation of technological and operational processes needed to enable the Department of Vermont Health Access to administer the Dr. Dynasaur-like coverage beginning on July 1, 2022. The act also requires AHS to provide information in its fiscal year 2023 budget presentation on the estimated fiscal year 2023 costs of the coverage.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 1, 2021