

H.430

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

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 19, subchapter 9 is added to read:

Subchapter 9. Coverage for Additional Populations

§ 2091. DR. DYNASAUR-LIKE COVERAGE; LEGISLATIVE INTENT

In establishing Dr. Dynasaur-like coverage for children and pregnant individuals who are not eligible for the Dr. Dynasaur program because of their immigration status, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the hospital, medical, dental, and prescription drug benefits and eligibility criteria for the coverage set forth in section 2092 of this chapter should align to the greatest extent practicable with the benefits and eligibility criteria of the Dr. Dynasaur program.

§ 2092. DR. DYNASAUR-LIKE COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN VERMONT RESIDENTS

(a) As used in this section, the term “Vermont residents who have an immigration status for which Medicaid coverage is not available” includes migrant workers who are employed in seasonal occupations in this State.

(b) The Agency of Human Services shall provide hospital, medical, dental, and prescription drug coverage equivalent to coverage in the Vermont Medicaid State Plan to the following categories of Vermont residents who have

an immigration status for which Medicaid coverage is not available and who are otherwise uninsured:

(1) children under 19 years of age whose household income does not exceed the income threshold for eligibility under the Vermont Medicaid State Plan; and

(2) pregnant individuals whose household income does not exceed the income threshold for eligibility under the Vermont Medicaid State Plan, for coverage during their pregnancy and for postpartum coverage equivalent to that available under the Vermont Medicaid State Plan.

(c) The confidentiality provisions set forth in section 1902a of this chapter shall apply to all applications submitted and records created pursuant to this section, except that the Agency of Human Services shall not make any information regarding applicants or enrollees available to the United States government.

(d) The Agency of Human Services may adopt rules in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. 2. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; OUTREACH AND PROVIDER  
GRANTS; IMPLEMENTATION; APPROPRIATION

To the extent that applicable funds are appropriated in the fiscal year 2022 budget, the Agency of Human Services shall use them for the following purposes:

(1) Grants or reimbursements, or both, to health care providers for delivering health care services during fiscal year 2022 to children and pregnant individuals who have an immigration status for which Medicaid coverage is not available.

(2) Grants to Vermont organizations that work with members of Vermont's undocumented immigrant community or with members of the health care provider community to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach and information regarding opportunities for children and pregnant individuals in Vermont who have an immigration status for which Medicaid coverage is not available to access health care services at low or no cost in fiscal year 2022 and thereafter. The outreach and information shall include information on the confidentiality of records pertaining to applicants and enrollees.

(3) Implementing the technological and operational processes necessary for the Department of Vermont Health Access to administer the coverage for Vermont residents who have an immigration status for which Medicaid coverage is not available as set forth in 33 V.S.A. § 2092 beginning on July 1, 2022.

Sec. 3. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; DR. DYNASAUR-LIKE  
COVERAGE; FISCAL YEAR 2023 ESTIMATE

The Agency of Human Services shall provide information on the estimated fiscal year 2023 costs of providing coverage to Vermont residents who have an immigration status for which Medicaid coverage is not available pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 2092 beginning on July 1, 2022 as part of the Agency's fiscal year 2023 budget presentation to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Health Care and the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Health and Welfare.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 2 (Agency of Human Services; outreach and provider grants; implementation; appropriation) shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

(b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage, with the Agency of Human Services making coverage available to Vermont residents who have an immigration status for which Medicaid coverage is not available in accordance with Sec. 1 (33 V.S.A. § 2092) beginning on July 1, 2022, subject to fiscal year 2023 appropriations for this purpose.