

Legislative Analysis

WAIVING MEDICAID AND MI CHILD WAITING PERIOD

House Bill 4740 as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Alabas A. Farhat

Committee: Insurance and Financial Services

Complete to 10-14-23

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4740 would amend the Social Welfare Act to require, beginning January 1, 2024, that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) waive the five-year waiting period for immigrant children and pregnant people who are otherwise eligible to enroll in Medicaid or the MI Child program. The bill would also require DHHS to extend coverage under these programs to children up to 21 years of age and to pregnant people regardless of whether they have lived in the United States for less than five years.

Proposed MCL 400.107c

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

According to committee testimony, the option for states to waive the five-year waiting period has existed since 2010. Supporters of the bill stated that Michigan is one of only fifteen states that have not exercised this option. They argued that providing access to these programs can be critical for refugees fleeing crises, who can't afford to wait five-years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no new fiscal impact on DHHS or the state's Medicaid program, as appropriations for FY 2023-24 include \$26.4 million Gross (\$6.4 million GF/GP) to eliminate the five-year Medicaid waiting period for legal migrants up to 21 years of age or who are pregnant. During budget development, DHHS estimated that approximately 8,000 eligible residents would apply for the waiver.

POSITIONS:

A representative of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health testified in support of the bill (10-5-23).

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Department of Health and Human Services (10-5-23)
- Michigan League for Public Policy (10-5-23)
- Michigan Health and Hospital Association (10-12-23)
- Michigan Catholic Conference (10-12-23)
- Michigan Association of Health Plans (10-12-23)

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