SLS 24RS-289 ENGROSSED

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR MCMATH

MEDICAID. Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to increase eligibility requirements for the Medicaid Purchase Plan.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1 2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to increase eligibility requirements for the Medicaid Purchase Plan to the original countable income and asset limits. 3 4 WHEREAS, the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MPP) is an optional Medicaid program 5 that provides healthcare coverage to individuals with disabilities who are employed and meet 6 specific income requirements; and 7 WHEREAS, MPP was implemented in January 2004, and provides full medical 8 coverage, including prescription drugs, hospital care, doctor services, medical equipment and 9 supplies, medical transportation, and personal assistance services; and 10 WHEREAS, in order to qualify for the program, individuals are required to: have a 11 significant disability that matches Social Security standards; work; be at least sixteen years of age but not yet sixty-five; have countable income and countable assets below the program 12 13 limits; and take other health insurance coverage, if available at no cost to the individual; and 14 WHEREAS, when the program was first implemented, the income and asset limits for individuals were an annual countable income of less than 250% of the Federal Poverty 15 16 Limit (FPL) and countable assets of less than \$25,000; and 17 WHEREAS, in 2014, significant changes were made to the program that reduced the 18 countable income to the current limit of \$1,215 per month for a family of one and \$1,644 for

SLS 24RS-289 ENGROSSED
SCR NO. 17

1 a family of two; and 2 WHEREAS, the changes in 2014 also reduced countable assets to the current limit 3 of less than \$10,000; and 4 WHEREAS, working individuals with disabilities are now only able to make income just slightly over the regular Medicaid income limits; and 5 6 WHEREAS, these reductions have forced individuals with disabilities to choose 7 between employment and Medicaid; and 8 WHEREAS, unfortunately, most of those individuals have chosen to leave their jobs 9 so that they could continue the much-needed support from the home and community-based 10 services they received; and 11 WHEREAS, work is a fundamental part of adult life for people with and without 12 disabilities; and 13 WHEREAS, all MPP participants are tax-paying residents and have contributed a 14 total of over \$8,000,000 in federal taxes, including FICA and federal income tax, and over 15 \$1,000,000 in state taxes since the inception of the program. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 16 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to increase eligibility requirements for 17 18 the Medicaid Purchase Plan to the original countable income and asset limits, allowing 19 people with disabilities to receive personal assistance services, get out of poverty, and 20 participate in and be fully included in their communities. 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 22 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

DIGEST 2024 Regular Session

SCR 17 Engrossed

McMath

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SLS 24RS-289 ENGROSSED
SCR NO. 17

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Makes a technical change.