

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0035

Child health insurance program amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health and safety; amending
2 eligibility criteria under the child health insurance
3 program to include parents or guardians as specified;
4 providing a maximum participation limit; providing
5 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-25-111 is created to read:

10

11 **35-25-111. Participation of parents or guardians.**

12

13 (a) Subject to the approval of a waiver by the United
14 States secretary of health and human services and subject
15 to available state and federal funding, parents or
16 guardians of children enrolled in the child health

1 insurance program or the medical assistance program may be
2 eligible for participation in the programs under the
3 following conditions:

4

5 (i) One (1) of the parents or guardians in the
6 household is working at a full or part-time job;

7

8 (ii) If the parents are separated or divorced,
9 the noncustodial parent shall not be eligible for
10 participation in the program;

11

12 (iii) The employer of the participating parent
13 or guardian agrees to pay for at least one-half (1/2) of
14 the monthly premiums of the health insurance plan selected
15 by the parent or guardian under the provisions of
16 subsection (b) of this section. For program participants
17 who work less than an average of thirty (30) hours per
18 week, the department may waive this provision and collect
19 an hourly fee from the employer.

20

21 (b) Parents or guardians may participate in the
22 program through the employer's health insurance plan or
23 through a group plan contracted by the department for
24 program participants under the provisions of W.S.

1 35-25-106(a). The department shall assess the qualifying
2 parents and guardians a participation fee. The amount of
3 the fee may vary depending upon the level of income greater
4 than one hundred thirty-three percent (133%) of the federal
5 poverty level. Parents or guardians with a household
6 income of one hundred thirty-three percent (133%) of the
7 federal poverty level or less shall not be assessed a
8 participation fee.

9

10 (c) In the group plan offered by the department, the
11 package of benefits available to participating parents and
12 guardians may vary depending upon qualifying household
13 income. The plan offered by an employer is not subject to
14 a benchmark set of benefits.

15

16 (d) If the parent or guardian is covered through an
17 employer's group health insurance plan, the total amount of
18 funding provided to the parent or guardian to participate
19 in the employer's plan shall not exceed the cost that the
20 department would pay for participation in the plan provided
21 under W.S. 35-25-106(a), minus the employer's contribution
22 under paragraph (a)(iii) of this section and the employee's
23 contribution under subsection (b) of this section.

24

1 (e) Students who are attending the University of
2 Wyoming or a state community college shall not be
3 disqualified pursuant to paragraph (a)(i) of this section
4 provided they qualify under the work-study provisions of
5 the temporary assistance to needy families program.

6
7 (f) The total enrollment of parents, guardians and
8 students through the waiver in the child health insurance
9 program or the medical assistance program shall not exceed
10 three thousand seven hundred twenty (3,720) for the 2007-
11 2008 biennia and the total enrollment for future biennium
12 shall be as determined in the applicable budget bill.

13
14 **Section 2.** Three million three hundred fifty thousand
15 dollars (\$3,350,000.00) in federal funds and one million
16 six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,650,000.00) from the
17 general fund is appropriated to the department of health
18 for case service expenditures as provided in this act.
19 Three hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$335,000.00) in
20 federal funds and one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars
21 (\$165,000.00) from the general fund is appropriated and
22 three (3) full-time positions authorized to the department
23 of health to administer the provisions of this section.

24

1 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2006.

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(END)