

SENATE FILE NO. SF0086

Medical assistance program design.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Scott and Nicholas, P. and Representative(s) Brown and Harvey

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to medical assistance; requiring the  
2 development of a design for a medical assistance program  
3 for people who cannot afford adequate health care;  
4 providing principles for the design as specified; requiring  
5 the management council to designate an entity to develop  
6 the design; requiring input from stakeholders; prohibiting  
7 the submission of a request for medicaid expansion to the  
8 federal government as specified; providing an  
9 appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

10

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

12

13 **Section 1.**

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1           (a) The Wyoming legislature's management council  
2 shall direct the design of a program providing medical  
3 assistance to people who cannot afford adequate health  
4 care.

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6           (b) The program design shall follow these principles:

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8                   (i) The design shall seek to maximize  
9 improvements in the health status of program participants  
10 given reasonably available medical and other resources and  
11 shall seek to provide greater health status improvements  
12 than those provided by the medicaid program;

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14                   (ii) The design, in conjunction with other  
15 assistance programs, shall seek to create a pathway for  
16 participants to leave governmental assistance and become  
17 self-sufficient;

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19                   (iii) The design shall be coordinated with other  
20 assistance programs so that participants always have an  
21 incentive to improve their earnings and economic status.  
22 To achieve this end, the design may include recommended  
23 changes to other government assistance programs;

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2 (iv) The design shall include a work requirement  
3 for participants who are able to work;

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5 (v) The design shall allow participation by  
6 participants, if any, who are unable to work and who are  
7 not eligible for health care assistance from other  
8 programs, including programs associated with supplemental  
9 security income (SSI);

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11 (vi) The design shall include incentives and  
12 other mechanisms for participants and health care providers  
13 to avoid unnecessary health care costs and to reduce the  
14 costs of health care;

15

16 (vii) The design shall consider the use of  
17 health savings accounts or similar accounts to provide  
18 incentives for appropriate cost and utilization reduction;

19

20 (viii) The design shall consider and recommend  
21 changes in the current medicaid program which would improve  
22 health outcomes for current medicaid clients and reduce

1    medicaid cost as a means of financing or helping to finance  
2    the medical assistance program designed under this section;

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4           (ix) The design shall seek to avoid spending  
5    monies that Wyoming does not have and shall seek to avoid  
6    the creation of any uncontrolled entitlement that may grow  
7    beyond the resources Wyoming can reasonably expect to have  
8    in the future;

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10           (x) The design shall comply with the  
11   requirements of the Wyoming Constitution, Article 16,  
12   Section 6, concerning the necessary support of the poor;

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14           (xi) The design shall seek to facilitate the  
15   movement of participants from the medicaid program and the  
16   medical assistance program designed under this section to  
17   private insurance including employer provided insurance and  
18   privately purchased insurance;

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20           (xii) The design shall consider housing the new  
21   medical assistance program in the department of family  
22   services, the Wyoming health insurance pool or any other

1 state agency and may consider moving the medicaid program  
2 to the same entity;

3

4 (xiii) The design shall consider financing the  
5 medical assistance program from savings created by  
6 operation of the program in the existing medicaid program,  
7 savings in other health and welfare programs and from the  
8 financing mechanisms available to the Wyoming health  
9 insurance pool;

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11 (xiv) The development of the design shall not be  
12 unreasonably constrained by current federal health policies  
13 and requirements;

14

15 (xv) The design may be implemented through an  
16 expansion of Wyoming's participation in the medicaid  
17 program with appropriate federal waivers or changes, as  
18 part of any available medicaid block grant or as a free-  
19 standing state program.

20

21 **Section 2.**

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1           (a) The management council may assign the development  
2 of the design required by section 1 of this act to a joint  
3 interim committee, a special or select legislative  
4 committee or to a joint task force with public and  
5 executive branch members.

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7           (b) The management council shall set appropriate time  
8 schedules and deadlines for the design effort which shall  
9 include a report before the 2017 general session and before  
10 the 2018 budget session.

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12           **Section 3.**

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14           (a) The entity developing the design required by  
15 section 1 of this act shall:

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17                   (i) At its initial meeting or at an early  
18 meeting, seek information, advice and recommendations from  
19 the general public and other stakeholders;

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21                   (ii) Receive assistance, advice and information  
22 from the department of family services, the department of

1 insurance and Wyoming health insurance pool, the department  
2 of workforce services and the department of health;

3

4 (iii) Request advice and recommendations from  
5 the governor.

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7 (b) The state of Wyoming shall not seek approval from  
8 the federal government for an expansion of its  
9 participation in the medicaid program until the design of  
10 the medical assistance program has been submitted to and  
11 considered by the legislature.

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13 (c) The management council may authorize the use of  
14 consultants or temporary or part-time employees to assist  
15 in staffing and performing the functions required by this  
16 act.

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18 (d) There is appropriated from the general fund to  
19 the legislative service office twenty thousand dollars  
20 (\$20,000.00) for the purpose of performing the tasks  
21 required in this act. This appropriation shall be expended  
22 only for the purposes authorized by this act. These funds  
23 shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose

1 and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this  
2 appropriation on June 30, 2019 shall revert as provided by  
3 law.

4

5       **Section 4.** This act is effective immediately upon  
6 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
7 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
8 Constitution.

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(END)