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An Act relating to poor persons; amending 56 O.S. 2001, Section 1010.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 464, O.S.L. 2003, (56 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1010.1), which relates to the Oklahoma Medicaid Program Reform Act of 2003; modifying negotiation provisions for a waiver or waivers; authorizing development and implementation of specified pilot premium assistance plan for certain purpose; creating the Health Employee and Economy Improvement Act (HEEIA) Revolving Fund; providing for fund contents; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2001, Section 1010.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 464, O.S.L. 2003 (56 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1010.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1010.1 A. Sections 1010.1 through 1010.7 of this title shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Medicaid Program Reform Act of 2003".

B. Recognizing that many Oklahomans do not have health care benefits or health care coverage, that many small businesses cannot afford to provide health care benefits to their employees, and that, under federal law, barriers exist to providing Medicaid benefits to the uninsured, the Oklahoma Legislature hereby establishes provisions to lower the number of uninsured, assist businesses in their ability to afford health care benefits and coverage for their employees, and eliminate barriers to providing health coverage to eligible enrollees under federal law.

C. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall provide coverage under the state Medicaid program to children under the age of

eighteen (18) years whose family incomes do not exceed one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level.

D. 1. The Authority is hereby directed to apply for a waiver or waivers to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) that will accomplish the purposes outlined in subsection B of this section. The Authority is further directed to negotiate with CMS to include in such waiver authority provisions to ~~accomplish the following goals:~~

- a. ~~increased~~ increase access to health care for Oklahomans,
- b. reform ~~of~~ the Oklahoma Medicaid Program to promote personal responsibility ~~with regard to~~ for health care services and appropriate utilization of health care benefits through the use of public-private cost sharing,
- c. ~~the~~ enable small employers, and/or employed, uninsured adults with or without children to purchase of employer-sponsored, state-approved private, or state-sponsored health care coverage using "buy-in" arrangements for small employers and/or voucher arrangements for employer-sponsored insurance purchasing through a state premium assistance payment plan, and
- d. ~~development of~~ develop flexible health care benefit packages based upon patient need and cost.

2. The Authority may phase in any waiver or waivers it receives based upon available funding.

3. The Authority is hereby authorized to develop and implement a pilot premium assistance plan to assist small businesses and/or their eligible employees to purchase employer-sponsored insurance or "buy-in" to a state-sponsored benefit plan.

E. 1. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund to be designated the "Health Employee and Economy Improvement Act (HEEIA) Revolving Fund".

2. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of:

- a. all monies received by the Authority pursuant to this section and otherwise specified or authorized by law,
- b. monies received by the Authority due to federal financial participation pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act, and
- c. interest attributable to investment of money in the fund.

3. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and shall be budgeted and expended by the Authority to implement a premium assistance plan.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 9th day of March, 2004.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2004.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives