

THE STATE SENATE
Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Committee Substitute for
Senate Bill No. 1546

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1546 - By: ROBINSON of the Senate and LEIST of the House.

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, 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

1 their ability to afford health care benefits and coverage for their
2 employees, and eliminate barriers to providing health coverage to
3 eligible enrollees under federal law.

4 C. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall provide coverage
5 under the state Medicaid program to children under the age of
6 eighteen (18) years whose family incomes do not exceed one hundred
7 eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level.

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

- 14 a. ~~increased~~ increase access to health care for
15 Oklahomans,
- 16 b. reform ~~of~~ the Oklahoma Medicaid Program to promote
17 personal responsibility ~~with regard to~~ for health care
18 services and appropriate utilization of health care
19 benefits through the use of public-private cost
20 sharing,
- 21 c. ~~the~~ enable small employers, and/or employed, uninsured
22 adults with or without children to purchase of
23 employer-sponsored, state-approved private, or state-

1 sponsored health care coverage using "buy-in"
2 arrangements for small employers and/or voucher
3 arrangements for employer-sponsored insurance
4 purchasing through a state premium assistance payment
5 plan, and

6 d. ~~development of~~ develop flexible health care benefit
7 packages based upon patient need and cost.

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

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

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

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

19 a. all monies received by the Authority pursuant to this
20 section and otherwise specified or authorized by law,

21 b. monies received by the Authority due to federal
22 financial participation pursuant to Title XIX of the
23 Social Security Act, and

1 c. interest attributable to investment of money in the
2 fund.

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

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

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

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES, dated 2-19-04 -
12 DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.