

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR

5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1747

6 By: Hoskin

7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 ( poor persons - federal poverty level -

9 Employer/Employee Partnership for Insurance

10 Coverage Premium Assistance Program -

11 effective date )

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2001, Section 1010.1, as  
17 last amended by Section 15, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 2006 (56 O.S. Supp.  
18 2006, Section 1010.1), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 1010.1 A. Sections 1010.1 through ~~1010.7~~ 1010.13 of  
20 this title shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Medicaid  
21 Program Reform Act of 2003".

22 B. Recognizing that many Oklahomans do not have health care  
23 benefits or health care coverage, that many small businesses cannot  
24 afford to provide health care benefits to their employees, and that,

1 under federal law, barriers exist to providing Medicaid benefits to  
2 the uninsured, the Oklahoma Legislature hereby establishes  
3 provisions to lower the number of uninsured, assist businesses in  
4 their ability to afford health care benefits and coverage for their  
5 employees, and eliminate barriers to providing health coverage to  
6 eligible enrollees under federal law.

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

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

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

1 assistance payment plan. If by January 1, 2008, the  
2 Employer/Employee Partnership for Insurance Coverage  
3 Premium Assistance Program is not consuming more than  
4 seventy-five percent (75%) of its dedicated source of  
5 funding, then the program will be expanded to include  
6 parents of children eligible for Medicaid. Employees  
7 eligible for the Employer/Employee Partnership for  
8 Insurance Coverage Premium Assistance Program shall  
9 have a household income at or below two hundred  
10 percent (200%) of the Federal Poverty Level, and

11 d. develop flexible health care benefit packages based  
12 upon patient need and cost.

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

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

19 4. During the implementation of the premium assistance program,  
20 the Authority is hereby authorized to seek from the Centers for  
21 Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers necessary to accomplish  
22 an expansion of the premium assistance program to include employers  
23 with fifty employees or less up to any level supported by existing  
24 funding resources.

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

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

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

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

16 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2007.

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