

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1825

By: Johnson

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to poor persons, amending 56 O.S.
8 2001, Section 1010.1, as last amended by Section 1,
9 Chapter 412, O.S.L. 2008 (56 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section
10 1010.1), which relates to Medicaid; expanding scope
11 of certain premium assistance program; and providing
12 an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 56 O.S. 2001, Section 1010.1, as
15 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 412, O.S.L. 2008 (56 O.S. Supp.
16 2008, Section 1010.1), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1010.1 A. Sections 1010.1 et seq. of this title shall
18 be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Medicaid Program Reform
19 Act of 2003".

20 B. Recognizing that many Oklahomans do not have health care
21 benefits or health care coverage, that many small businesses cannot
22 afford to provide health care benefits to their employees, and that,
23 under federal law, barriers exist to providing Medicaid benefits to
24 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. Unless otherwise provided by law, the Oklahoma Health Care
5 Authority shall provide coverage under the state Medicaid program to
6 children under the age of eighteen (18) years whose family incomes
7 do not exceed one hundred eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal
8 poverty level.

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

- 14 a. increase access to health care for Oklahomans,
- 15 b. reform the Oklahoma Medicaid Program to promote
16 personal responsibility for health care services and
17 appropriate utilization of health care benefits
18 through the use of public-private cost sharing,
- 19 c. enable small employers, and/or employed, uninsured
20 adults with or without children to purchase employer-
21 sponsored, state-approved private, or state-sponsored
22 health care coverage through a state premium
23 assistance payment plan. If by January 1, 2012, the
24 Employer/Employee Partnership for Insurance Coverage

1 Premium Assistance Program is not consuming more than
2 seventy-five percent (75%) of its dedicated source of
3 funding, then the program will be expanded to include
4 parents of children eligible for Medicaid, and

5 d. develop flexible health care benefit packages based
6 upon patient need and cost.

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

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

14 4. a. The Authority is authorized to seek from the Centers for
15 Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers or amendments
16 to existing waivers necessary to accomplish an expansion
17 of the premium assistance program to:

18 (1) include for-profit employers with two hundred fifty
19 employees or less up to any level supported by
20 existing funding resources; and

21 (2) include not-for-profit employers with five hundred
22 employees or less up to any level supported by
23 existing funding resources.

1 b. Foster parents employed by employers with greater than
2 two hundred fifty employees shall be exempt from the
3 qualifying employer requirement provided for in this
4 paragraph and shall be eligible to qualify for the
5 premium assistance program provided for in this section
6 if supported by existing funding.

7 E. For purposes of this paragraph, "for-profit employer" shall
8 mean an entity which is not exempt from taxation pursuant to the
9 provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and
10 "not-for-profit employer" shall mean an entity which is exempt from
11 taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the
12 Internal Revenue Code.

13 F. The Authority is authorized to seek from the Centers for
14 Medicare and Medicaid Services any waivers or amendments to existing
15 waivers necessary to accomplish an extension of the premium
16 assistance program to include qualified employees whose family
17 income does not exceed two hundred fifty percent (250%) of the
18 federal poverty level, subject to the limit of federal financial
19 participation.

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

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

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

8 3. All monies accruing to the credit of the fund are hereby
9 appropriated and shall be budgeted and expended by the Authority to
10 implement a premium assistance plan, unless otherwise provided by
11 law.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

13
14 52-1-6124 SAB 01/04/09
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24