

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 771 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4

As Engrossed: S1/27/11 S3/10/11

A Bill

SENATE BILL 65

5 By: Senators J. Jeffress, *G. Jeffress*
6 By: Representatives Hall, Pierce, Cheatham, *Lindsey*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO IMPROVE ENROLLMENT OF ARKANSAS CHILDREN IN
10 THE ARKIDS FIRST A AND B MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 AN ACT TO IMPROVE ENROLLMENT OF ARKANSAS
16 CHILDREN IN THE ARKIDS FIRST A AND B
17 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, chapter 77 is amended to add an
23 additional subchapter to read as follows:

24 20-77-2001. Findings.

25 The General Assembly finds that:

26 (1) Almost two-thirds (2/3) of the state's uninsured children
27 are already eligible for either ARKids First A or B, but many are not
28 enrolled or do not remain enrolled;

29 (2) Twenty thousand (20,000) children annually are dropped from
30 the ARKids First A or B programs because of procedural requirements, not
31 through a change in eligibility;

32 (3) The Child Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of
33 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-3, offers financial incentives to states that adopt
34 measures to streamline enrollment and reenrollment in their Medicaid
35 programs;

36 (4) Other states have found that simplifying enrollment and re-



1 enrollment for families can also save the state administrative costs through
2 improved use of technology and more efficient use of databases and resources
3 already available to the state; and

4 (5) Working to enroll all eligible children can help to inform
5 planning efforts to effectively enroll newly eligible adults in Medicaid or
6 private insurance as the state implements the Affordable Care Act.

7
8 20-77-2002. Administration.

9 (a) In administering the ARKids First A and B programs, the Department
10 of Human Services shall:

11 (1) Work to increase enrollment among eligible uninsured
12 children under nineteen (19) years of age;

13 (2) Work to improve retention of coverage among eligible
14 uninsured children under nineteen (19) years of age;

15 (3) Design the application and annual renewal processes to
16 minimize administrative barriers for applicants and enrolled children under
17 nineteen (19) years of age to minimize gaps in coverage for children who are
18 eligible and to reduce state administrative costs;

19 (4) Modify eligibility renewal procedures to improve retention
20 and increase the number of children who retain coverage; and

21 (5)(A) Manage outreach, application, and renewal procedures with
22 the goal of achieving annual improvements in enrollment, enrollment rates,
23 renewals, and renewal rates.

24 (B) To make the improvements required under subdivision
25 (a)(1) of this section, the department shall maximize the use of existing
26 program databases to obtain information related to earned and unearned income
27 for purposes of eligibility determination and renewals, including without
28 limitation:

29 (i) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;

30 (ii) The state child care subsidy program;

31 (iii) The Arkansas Better Chance program;

32 (iv) The National School Lunch Program;

33 (v) Federal Social Security Administration programs;

34 and

35 (vi) The Department of Workforce Services database.

36 (b) To simplify and streamline the renewal process, the department

1 shall:

2 (1) Maximize the use of data matches, online submissions, and
3 telephone interviews; and

4 (2) Develop a pre-populated renewal form that will be sent to
5 families to complete and return for use in cases in which if department is
6 unable to renew coverage through the use of data matching, online
7 submissions, or telephone interviews.

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9 20-77-2003. ARKids First enrollment and renewals.

10 (a) The Department of Human Services shall perform the initiatives
11 under subsection (b) of this section to increase ARKids First enrollment and
12 renewals and position the state to compete for a performance bonus payment
13 under the federal Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of
14 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-3.

15 (b) The department shall make best efforts to obtain approval from the
16 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the following:

17 (1) For each child enrolled in ARKids First A who becomes
18 ineligible to complete his or her ARKids First A enrollment period for
19 financial reasons, establishing a process to allow ARKids First B coverage
20 from the date of ineligibility through the end date of the ARKids First A
21 enrollment period;

22 (2) An ex-parte renewal process for ARKids First A and ARKids
23 First B, in which the state performs the eligibility redetermination to the
24 maximum extent possible based on information contained in the ARKids First
25 file or by obtaining other information available to the state through other
26 sources, such as income databases, before it seeks any information from the
27 child's parent or representative; and

28 (3) An Express Lane Eligibility enrollment option that allows
29 use of other public program databases and findings to reach and enroll
30 children in the ARKids First A and ARKids First B programs.

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32 SECTION 2. This subchapter shall be implemented only if and to the
33 extent that the Department of Human Services can obtain the necessary waiver
34 approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and that the
35 required state general revenue to support these initiatives is made
36 available.

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SECTION 3. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The form required under § 20-77-2002(5)(B)(2) shall be developed and tested on or before December 31, 2011.

/s/J. Jeffress

APPROVED: 03/30/2011