

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.

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 65

5 By: Senator J. Jeffress
6 By: Representatives Hall, Pierce, Cheatham
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.
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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 unnecessary procedural
31 requirements, not 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) Rely primarily upon the use of data matches, online
3 submissions, and 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. Accord with federal Children's Health Insurance Program
10 Reauthorization Act of 2009.

11 (a) The Department of Human Services shall provide the following for
12 children under nineteen (19) years of age in accordance with the requirements
13 for qualification for performance bonus payments under the federal Children's
14 Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-3:

15 (1) Identical application and renewal verification processes for
16 ARKids First A and ARKids First B;

17 (2)(A) To the extent federal financial participation is
18 available, the option under Section 1902(e)(12) of the federal Social
19 Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(e)(12) to extend continuous eligibility to
20 children nineteen (19) years of age and younger in ARKids First A.

21 (B) A child shall remain eligible under subdivision (2)(A)
22 of this section from the date of a determination of eligibility for Medicaid
23 benefits until the earlier of either:

24 (i) The end of a twelve-month period following the
25 eligibility determination; or

26 (ii) The date the child reaches the age of nineteen
27 (19) years;

28 (3) Implementation of administrative or paperless verification
29 at renewal for ARKids First A and ARKids First B; and

30 (4) Use of the Express Lane Eligibility enrollment option that
31 allows use of other public program databases and findings to reach and enroll
32 children in the ARKids First A and ARKids First B programs.

33 (b) This section shall be implemented only if and to the extent that
34 federal financial participation is available.

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SECTION 2. NOT TO BE CODIFIED. The form required under § 20-77-2002(5)(B)(2) shall be developed and tested on or before August 30, 2011.

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