State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989   A Bill   HOUSE BILL

1508

By: Representatives Day, Tullis, Pollan, Brown,

    Blair, and Lendall

                    For An Act To Be Entitled

        "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN ARKANSAS OF AN

        UNINSURED CHILDRENS PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

        SECTION 1. This Program shall be known and may be cited as the

"Uninsured Childrens' Program" Act.

        SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose and intent of this program is to

provide access to appropriate primary health care services for eligible

children in Arkansas who are not covered by Medicaid or any source of health

insurance for the services offered by this program.

        SECTION 3. The Department of Human Services shall be responsible for

administering the Uninsured Childrens' Program and the Department of Human

Services shall administer and promulgate regulations for the Uninsured

Childrens' Program in a manner that: (1) Establishes a specific definition of

the population who shall be eligible for services provided or reimbursed

through this program with the specific guideline that the program is limited

to children who have gross family income equal to or less than 185 percent of

the Federal poverty guideline who are not covered by Medicaid or any other

health insurance program for the services offered by this program. The

Department of Human Services shall have discretion to set age limits for

participation in this program. (2) Provides for the automatic assignment of

medical payments due as set out in Act 463 of 1987 as a condition of

eligibility for benefits under the Uninsured Childrens' Program.

        SECTION 4. COVERED SERVICES AND PROVIDERS. Covered and noncovered

services under the Uninsured Childrens' Program shall be in accordance with regulations established by the Department of Human Services. Providers of covered services shall be the same as those providers enrolled as Medicaid providers and reimbursement shall be at the same rate and under the same conditions established for Medicaid providers.

SECTION 5. FUNDING. (a) Funding for the Uninsured Childrens' Program shall be derived from funds as may be provided by the General Assembly and any federal matching funds generated by the program. (b) It is further the intent of this bill that funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the purpose of funding the Uninsured Childrens' Program be used where appropriate and practical to match federal funding sources to enhance the total available funding to the operation of the Uninsured Childrens' Program. (c) The uninsured Children's Program shall operate only if funds are available for its operation.

SECTION 6. ENROLLMENT FEES. The Department of Human Services may at its discretion establish an annual enrollment fee for participation in the Uninsured Childrens' Program. The enrollment fee shall be established through promulgated regulations.

SECTION 7. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS. (a) All funds derived from fees collected under Section 6 are declared to be special revenues and shall be deposited in the State Treasury, there to be credited to the Department of Human Services Uninsured Childrens' Fund to be used for administration of the Uninsured Childrens' Program. (b) Subject to such rules and regulations as may be implemented by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the disbursing Officer for the Department of Human Services is authorized to transfer all unexpended funds relative to the fees collected in Section 6 of this Act as certified by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, to be carried forward and made available for expenditure for the same purpose for any following fiscal year.

SECTION 8. The Uninsured Childrens' Program shall begin operation at the beginning of the State fiscal year beginning one year after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 9. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.