

1 HB360
2 216430-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
5 First Read: 16-FEB-22

SYNOPSIS: Under federal law, a pregnant woman who is eligible for medical assistance under Medicaid must be provided medical assistance for a period of 60 days after giving birth.

This bill would extend the period during which a pregnant woman who is eligible to receive medical assistance under Medicaid may continue to receive Medicaid assistance from 60 days to one year after giving birth.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Medicaid; to extend the postpartum coverage period for pregnant women eligible for Medicaid assistance.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The Legislature finds all of the following:

1 (1) The question of how to provide comprehensive,
2 quality health care to all Alabamians regardless of income,
3 health status, age, or gender has been one the Alabama
4 Legislature has asked itself time and time again.

5 (2) New mothers in Alabama are suffering because of
6 their lack of access to postpartum health care.

7 (3) Pregnancy-related death rates have been dropping
8 worldwide, while they have more than doubled in the United
9 States in the past 30 years, rising from seven deaths per
10 100,000 live births in 1987, to 17 in 2016, according to the
11 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

12 (4) Alabama women die from pregnancy and childbirth
13 complications at more than double the rate of women
14 nationally, according to new numbers from the National Center
15 for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and
16 Prevention.

17 (5) As of 2018, Alabama ranks sixth highest in the
18 nation in maternal death rates with Alabama's most current
19 recorded rate at 36.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births
20 compared to the national rate of 20.6.

21 (6) With the expansion of Medicaid, around 397,000
22 uninsured Alabamians would be eligible to receive low-cost
23 health insurance, with a majority of these residents being
24 employed. Covering low-income adults would also reduce the
25 burden of medical debt, now the leading cause of personal
26 bankruptcy.

1 (7) Expansion of Medicaid will result in reduced
2 state spending on health care related services to those
3 previously uninsured residents with incomes below 133 percent
4 of the federal poverty level.

5 (8) In addition to enhancing access to health care,
6 expansion of Medicaid would promote revenue and economic
7 activity in this state, resulting in the preservation and
8 creation of jobs.

9 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Medicaid Agency shall
10 continue to provide medical assistance to a woman who is
11 eligible for medical assistance for pregnant women for a
12 period of not less than 12 months following the date the woman
13 delivers or experiences an involuntary miscarriage.

14 (b) If before implementing this section, the Alabama
15 Medicaid Agency determines a waiver or authorization from a
16 federal agency is necessary for implementation of this
17 section, the agency shall request the waiver or authorization
18 and may delay implementing this section until the waiver or
19 authorization is granted.

20 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
21 first day of the third month following its passage and
22 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.