

HB89 INTRODUCED



1 HB89
2 T64V519-1
3 By Representatives Lands, Rafferty, Drummond, Hall, Ensler,
4 Clarke, Collins, Ross, DuBose, Wilcox
5 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
6 First Read: 04-Feb-25
7 PFD: 24-Jan-25



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SYNOPSIS:

Federal law provides that a state Medicaid plan may pay for prenatal care for a pregnant woman for a period of no more than 60 days during the pregnancy while a decision is pending on the pregnant woman's application for Medicaid coverage.

This bill would adopt this provision by extending the existing pregnant women benefit under the state Medicaid plan for up to 60 days to women who have not been formally approved for Medicaid coverage but who submit proof of pregnancy and household income information to a qualified provider of ambulatory prenatal care.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Medicaid; to provide presumptive eligibility to pregnant women for Medicaid prior to the Medicaid agency's approval of an application for Medicaid coverage; to limit the eligibility to what is provided under the state Medicaid plan for a period not exceeding 60 days; and to authorize the agency to adopt rules to implement this



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29 provision.

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

31 Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the
32 following terms have the following meanings:

33 (1) AGENCY. The Medicaid Agency of the State of
34 Alabama.

35 (2) PRELIMINARY INFORMATION. Proof of pregnancy and
36 documentation attesting to monthly household income.

37 (3) PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY PERIOD. The period that
38 starts on the date on which a qualified provider determines on
39 the basis of preliminary information that a woman is eligible
40 for Medicaid coverage for pregnant women and which ends on and
41 includes the earliest of the following dates:

42 a. On which the agency makes a determination of
43 eligibility for coverage based upon an application filed by
44 the woman.

45 b. If the woman fails to file an application with the
46 agency for coverage, the last day of the month following the
47 month in which the qualified provider made the determination
48 of presumptive eligibility.

49 c. No later than the sixtieth day after the qualified
50 provider made the determination of presumptive eligibility.

51 (4) QUALIFIED PROVIDER. Any provider of ambulatory
52 prenatal care as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 1396r-1 which is
53 qualified by the agency.

54 (b) (1) A pregnant woman shall be presumptively eligible
55 for coverage for ambulatory prenatal care under Medicaid if a
56 qualified provider determines on the basis of preliminary



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57 information that her household income does not exceed the
58 modified adjusted gross income limit for the eligibility of
59 pregnant women which is in effect under the state Medicaid
60 plan.

61 (2) A pregnant woman who is determined to be
62 presumptively eligible may receive no more than one
63 presumptive eligibility period per pregnancy.

64 (3) Coverage provided by the agency for the presumptive
65 eligibility period may not be retroactively denied due to
66 failure of the woman to submit an application for Medicaid or
67 the agency's negative decision on the application.

68 (c) A qualified provider that determines that a woman
69 is presumptively eligible for ambulatory prenatal care, at the
70 time of making the determination, shall: (i) notify the agency
71 of the determination within five working days; and (ii) inform
72 the woman that she must apply to the agency for Medicaid no
73 later than the last day of the following month.

74 (d) A woman who is determined to be presumptively
75 eligible for ambulatory prenatal care shall apply to the
76 agency for Medicaid no later than the last day of the month
77 following the month in which the determination is made.

78 (e) (1) The agency shall adopt rules that define the
79 acceptable documentation of preliminary information, which may
80 not exceed proof of pregnancy and a facial proof of current
81 household income.

82 (2) The agency may develop a worksheet and any other
83 necessary forms for use by a qualified provider to determine
84 preliminary eligibility.



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85 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
86 1, 2025.