

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1441
(Representatives Niemeier, Boucher, Cleary, Kerzman)
(Senator Bercier)

AN ACT to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-24.1-02.6 and a new section to chapter 50-29 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to medical assistance benefits and the children's health insurance program; to provide for a legislative council study; to provide for a continuing appropriation; to require maximizations of federal reimbursement; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for an expiration date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new subsection to section 50-24.1-02.6 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

The department of human services shall provide medical assistance benefits to children and families coverage groups and pregnant women without consideration of assets.

SECTION 2. A new section to chapter 50-29 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

Grants - Gifts - Donations - Continuing appropriation. The department may accept any gift, grant, or donation, whether conditional or unconditional, for the purpose of providing funds for the children's health insurance program. The department may contract with public or private entities and may expend any moneys available to the department to obtain matching funds for the purposes of this chapter. The department shall seek grants from the academy for health research and health policy state coverage initiative and from any other entity that may award such grants. All moneys received as a gift, grant, or donation under this section are appropriated as a standing and continuing appropriation to the department for the purpose of providing funds for the children's health insurance program.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STUDY. During the 2001-02 interim, the legislative council shall consider studying the coordination of the medical assistance and the children's health insurance programs, including the development of a single application form for both programs, whether the children's health insurance program should be administered by the state or the counties, the effects of eliminating the asset eligibility requirement for the medical assistance program, the standardization of the definition of "income" for all programs administered by the department of human services, and the feasibility and desirability of seeking a federal waiver to allow the children's health insurance program plan to provide coverage for a family through an employer-based insurance policy if an employer-based insurance policy is more cost-effective than the traditional plan coverage for the children. The legislative council shall report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the fifty-eighth legislative assembly.

SECTION 4. FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT. The department of human services shall seek an amendment to its state plan to maximize federal reimbursement through the program to provide health assistance to low-income children funded through title XXI of the federal Social Security Act, for the removal of the asset test for the medical assistance program.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE - EXPIRATION DATE. Section 1 of this Act becomes effective upon certification by the department of human services to the governor and the legislative council that the state plan amendments to the children's health insurance program have received federal approval. In no case, however, may section 1 of this Act become effective before January 1, 2002. If section 1 of this Act becomes effective, the section is effective through June 30, 2003, and after that date is ineffective.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1441.

House Vote: Yeas 85 Nays 10 Absent 3

Senate Vote: Yeas 30 Nays 19 Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State