An Act To Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage Gaps in the MaineCare Program and the Children's Health Insurance Program

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 3, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-FFF is enacted to read:

§3174-FFF. MaineCare program and Children’s Health Insurance Program coverage for noncitizens

1. Coverage provided. The department shall provide the same scope of medical assistance provided under section 3174-G for comparable enrollment groups to a person who would be eligible for assistance under the federal Medicaid program under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act but for their immigration status. In accordance with 8 United States Code, Section 1621, the State shall appropriate funds in the state budget to provide medical assistance through the MaineCare program and the Children’s Health Insurance Program as defined in section 3174-X, subsection 1, paragraph A for noncitizen individuals who reside in the State and are ineligible for coverage due to federal restrictions in the federal Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

2. Maximization of federal funds. The department shall maximize the receipt of available federal matching funds for coverage provided under this section, including, but not limited to, the state option to cover a noncitizen pregnant person by covering that person's child from conception through birth.

3. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4. Waivers and state Medicaid plan. The department shall seek any waivers and make amendments to the state Medicaid plan as needed to increase access to any federal funds that may be available to provide coverage under this section.

SUMMARY

This bill provides MaineCare program and the Children's Health Insurance Program coverage for noncitizen residents of this State who are ineligible for coverage under the federal Medicaid program or Children's Health Insurance Program due to their immigration status.