

By Representative Romeo

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to health insurance; providing  
3           legislative intent to provide expanded access  
4           to health insurance for adults living in  
5           families whose income is at or below the  
6           federal poverty level and to access federal  
7           funds for this coverage; requiring the Agency  
8           for Health Care Administration to file  
9           amendments to the state plan and waiver  
10          requests with the U.S. Department of Health and  
11          Human Services; creating the Health Care  
12          Coverage Workgroup; providing membership and  
13          purpose; amending s. 409.901, F.S.; defining  
14          the term "family"; amending s. 409.904, F.S.;  
15          authorizing the agency to make payments for  
16          medical assistance for families and individuals  
17          whose income is at or below 133 percent of the  
18          federal poverty level; providing an effective  
19          date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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23           Section 1. Legislative intent.--It is the intent of  
24 the Legislature to continue to meet the goal to assure access  
25 to health insurance to all Floridians who are uninsured. Over  
26 the course of several years, health insurance through the  
27 KidCare program has been extended to children living in  
28 families whose income levels are at or below 200 percent of  
29 the federal poverty level. However, many of the parents of  
30 these children are uninsured and without the means to purchase  
31 health insurance. Federal funds are available to help pay for

1 health insurance for low-income families through the medical  
2 assistance programs under Title XIX and Title XXI of the  
3 Social Security Act. It is the intent of the Legislature to  
4 provide expanded access to health insurance for eligible  
5 families and to access federal funds available for this  
6 coverage. It is further the intent of the Legislature to  
7 provide access to health insurance coverage for individuals  
8 and families with income at or below 133 percent of the  
9 federal poverty level, regardless of current Medicaid  
10 categorical eligibility. The Agency for Health Care  
11 Administration is directed to file the appropriate state plan  
12 amendments and waiver requests with the U.S. Department of  
13 Health and Human Services in order to provide access to this  
14 coverage and maximize all federal funds for provisions of this  
15 coverage.

16       Section 2. Health Care Coverage Workgroup.--A  
17 workgroup consisting of two representatives from the Chamber  
18 of Commerce; two representatives from the small business  
19 community; one representative from the Florida Hospital  
20 Association; one representative of the Florida Association of  
21 Community Health Centers; one representative from the Florida  
22 Medical Association; one representative of the insurance  
23 industry; four low-income consumers or their representatives;  
24 two representatives of the Workforce Boards; and any other  
25 representatives determined to be stakeholders by the Secretary  
26 of the Agency for Health Care Administration shall be  
27 appointed by the secretary for the express purpose of  
28 preparing a proposal to expand health insurance to Florida's  
29 low-wage workers and small employers that use the opportunity  
30 afforded by Congress to expand coverage to the parents of  
31 children eligible for the Title XIX and Title XXI programs,

1 including, but not limited to, buy-in, wrap-around, or tax  
2 credit options for small employers. The workgroup must be  
3 staffed by the Agency for Health Care Administration. A  
4 proposal must be prepared and presented to the Legislature by  
5 January 15, 2002.

6           Section 3. Present subsections (11), (12), (13), (14),  
7 (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24),  
8 (25), and (26) of section 409.901, Florida Statutes, are  
9 redesignated as subsections (12), (13), (14), (15), (16),  
10 (17), (18), (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), (25), (26),  
11 and (27), respectively, and a new subsection (11) is added to  
12 that section to read:

13           409.901 Definitions; ss. 409.901-409.920.--As used in  
14 ss. 409.901-409.920, except as otherwise specifically  
15 provided, the term:

16           (11) "Family" means a minor child or children and  
17 their parents or relatives with whom they reside.

18           Section 4. Subsection (9) is added to section 409.904,  
19 Florida Statutes, to read:

20           409.904 Optional payments for eligible persons.--The  
21 agency may make payments for medical assistance and related  
22 services on behalf of the following persons who are determined  
23 to be eligible subject to the income, assets, and categorical  
24 eligibility tests set forth in federal and state law. Payment  
25 on behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the  
26 availability of moneys and any limitations established by the  
27 General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

28           (9) Families and individuals whose income levels are  
29 at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. The  
30 Agency for Health Care Administration shall amend the medical  
31 assistance Title XIX state plan to provide medical assistance

1 coverage to families through expanded income disregards or  
2 other methodologies for families whose income levels are at or  
3 below 133 percent of the federal poverty level. In determining  
4 eligibility, consideration of family assets must be consistent  
5 with the requirements in s. 409.814. The Agency for Health  
6 Care Administration shall submit to the U.S. Department of  
7 Health and Human Services any necessary Title XIX or Title XXI  
8 state plan amendments or waiver requests to provide for  
9 medical assistance coverage to families and individuals under  
10 this section and to maximize federal funds for the provision  
11 of this coverage.

12 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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15 SENATE SUMMARY

16 Expresses legislative intent to provide expanded access  
17 to health insurance for adults living in families whose  
18 income is at or below the federal poverty level and to  
19 access federal funds for this coverage. Requires the  
20 Agency for Health Care Administration to file amendments  
21 to the state plan and waiver requests with the U.S.  
22 Department of Health and Human Services. Creates the  
23 Health Care Coverage Workgroup. Provides membership and  
24 purpose. Authorizes the agency to make payments for  
25 medical assistance for families and individuals whose  
26 income is at or below 133 percent of the federal poverty  
27 level.