

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1179
 SPONSOR(S): Bullard
 TIED BILLS:

Eligibility for Medicaid Payments
 IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1500

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Health Care General Committee	11 Y, 0 N	Brown-Barrios	Brown-Barrios
2) Health Care Appropriations Committee			
3) Health & Families Council			
4)			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Section 409.903, F.S., delineates the eligible persons for Medicaid for which the Agency for Health Care Administration must make payments for medical assistance and related services. Among the categorical groups delineated in s. 409.903(5), F.S., are pregnant women for the duration of their pregnancy and for the postpartum period or for children under age 1, if either is living in a family that has an income which is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Eligibility is subject to the income, assets, and categorical verification as set forth in federal and state law. The Department of Children and Family Services, determines eligibility. Payment on behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the availability of moneys and any limitations established by the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

Section 409.903(5), F.S., was amended in chapter 2004-270, Laws of Florida, to eliminate Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women with incomes above 150 percent of the federal poverty level effective July 1, 2005.

HB 1179 restores Medicaid coverage for pregnant women up to 185% of the federal poverty level.

This bill has a fiscal impact of \$60,760,185. HB 1893 (PCB FC 05-05 Health Care) by the Fiscal Council and Negron also restores funding for pregnant women to 185% of the poverty level.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide Limited Government -- The bill enables the Medicaid program to provide services to pregnant women within 185% of the federal poverty level.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Pregnant women up to 185 percent of the federal poverty would have Medicaid coverage.

Background

Section 409.903, F.S., delineates the eligible persons for Medicaid for which the Agency for Health Care Administration must make payments for medical assistance and related services. Among the categorical groups delineated in s. 409.903(5), F.S., are pregnant women for the duration of their pregnancy and for the postpartum period or for children under age 1, if either is living in a family that has an income which is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Eligibility is subject to the income, assets, and categorical verification as set forth in federal and state law. The Department of Children and Family Services determines eligibility. Payment on behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the availability of moneys and any limitations established by the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

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2005 Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$ 9,570	\$11,950	\$11,010
2	12,830	16,030	14,760
3	16,090	20,110	18,510
4	19,350	24,190	22,260

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Directs the Medicaid program to make mandatory payments on behalf of Medicaid eligible recipients for medical assistance and related services. Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women is increased from 150 percent to 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Section 2: Specifies that the act will take effect upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

Continue Pregnant Women below 185% of FPL

FY 2005 -2006		FY 2006-2007
General Revenue Fund	\$24,590,495	\$24,590,495
Medical Care Trust Fund	\$35,603,220	\$35,603,220
Grants & Donations Trust Fund	\$ 566,470	\$ 566,470
Total Funds	\$60,760,185	\$60,760,185

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

HB 1893 (PCB FC 05-05 Health Care) by the Fiscal Council and Negrón restores funding for pregnant women to 185% of the poverty level.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require cities or counties to spend funds or take actions requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The Agency for Health Care Administration already has rulemaking authority to administer the provisions of the bill.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES