

By Senator Berman

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Medicaid eligibility for young  
3           adults; providing legislative findings; requiring the  
4           Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation  
5           with the Commission on Mental Health and Substance  
6           Abuse, to conduct a study for a specified purpose;  
7           providing requirements for the study; providing duties  
8           for the agency based on the findings in the study;  
9           requiring the agency to submit a report of the  
10          findings and its recommendations to the Governor and  
11          the Legislature by a specified date; providing an  
12          effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16           Section 1. (1) The Legislature recognizes that there exists  
17 a health insurance coverage gap for certain young adults 18 to  
18 26 years of age who are unable to receive coverage for  
19 behavioral health services and primary and preventative care  
20 through a parent and are also unable to personally obtain health  
21 insurance through an employer or through Medicaid due to the  
22 program's income eligibility criteria. The Legislature also  
23 finds that young adults would benefit from increased access to  
24 behavioral health services as well as primary and preventative  
25 care, promoting better long-term physical and mental health  
26 outcomes.

27           (2) The Agency for Health Care Administration, in  
28 consultation with the Commission on Mental Health and Substance  
29 Abuse created under s. 394.9086, Florida Statutes, shall conduct

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30 a study to assess the potential impacts of adjusting the  
31 Medicaid income eligibility criteria to include coverage for  
32 young adults 18 to 26 years of age who are affected by the  
33 health insurance coverage gap because they are unable to receive  
34 coverage through a parent and are also unable to personally  
35 obtain health insurance coverage through an employer or through  
36 Medicaid due to the program's income eligibility criteria. In  
37 its study, the agency shall, at a minimum, do all of the  
38 following:

39 (a) Identify the estimated number of young adults who are  
40 affected by the health insurance coverage gap on average each  
41 year. The agency shall use any relevant data available from the  
42 preceding 5 years and shall conduct additional assessment  
43 surveys, as needed, to make a reasonable determination under  
44 this paragraph.

45 (b) Estimate the additional costs to the Medicaid program  
46 as a result of expanding coverage for behavioral health services  
47 and primary and preventative care to include such young adults,  
48 identifying any factors that may offset such costs.

49 (c) To the extent possible, determine the behavioral health  
50 needs of such young adults which go unaddressed each year as a  
51 result of not having health insurance coverage.

52 (d) To the extent possible, identify any correlation  
53 between unaddressed behavioral and physical health needs of  
54 young adults affected by the health insurance coverage gap and  
55 their use of urgent care and emergency room services when  
56 compared to peers who have health insurance coverage.

57 (3) Based on the findings in the study, the agency shall:

58 (a) Assess data to ascertain the behavioral and physical

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59 health needs of young adults 18 to 26 years of age affected by  
60 the health insurance coverage gap.

61 (b) Identify evidence-based interventions to address the  
62 specific needs of such young adults and increase access to  
63 behavioral health care and primary and preventative care,  
64 including, but not limited to, any pilot programs that may be  
65 implemented in this state.

66 (c) Develop a strategic, data-driven approach to addressing  
67 behavioral health care access and costs for targeted at-risk  
68 populations that will benefit from early intervention.

69 (d) Make recommendations on whether the Medicaid program  
70 can sustain an increase of income eligibility criteria for young  
71 adults 18 to 26 years of age affected by the health insurance  
72 coverage gap, and, if so, to what extent the income eligibility  
73 criteria should be increased.

74 (e) Identify any legislative barriers to implementing the  
75 agency's recommendations.

76 (4) The agency shall submit a report of its findings and  
77 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
78 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1,  
79 2024.

80 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.