Introduced

Senate Bill 564

BY SENATORS TAKUBO, BALDWIN, BEACH, FACEMIRE, HARDESTY, IHLENFELD, JEFFRIES, LINDSAY, MARONEY, PREZIOSO, ROMANO, STOLLINGS, UNGER, AND HAMILTON

[Introduced February 11, 2019; Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources; and then to the Committee on Finance]
Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 5. GENERAL POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE, AND ATTORNEY GENERAL; BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS; MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, OFFICES, PROGRAMS, ETC.

ARTICLE 16B. WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.

§5-16B-6d. Modified benefit plan implementation.

(a) Upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the board shall implement a benefit plan for uninsured children of families with income between two hundred and three hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

(b) The benefit plans offered pursuant to this section shall include services determined to be appropriate for children, but may vary from those currently offered by the board.

(c) The board shall structure the benefit plans for this expansion to include premiums, coinsurance or copays and deductibles. The board shall develop the cost sharing features in such a manner as to keep the program fiscally stable without creating a barrier to enrollment. Such features may include different cost-sharing features within this group based upon the percentage of the federal poverty level.

(d) Provider reimbursement schedules shall be no lower than the reimbursement provided for the same services under the plans offered in article sixteen of this chapter.
(e) The board shall create a benefit plan for comprehensive coverage for pregnant women between 185 percent and 300 percent of the federal poverty level including prenatal care, delivery, and 60 days postpartum care under authorization of CHIPRA and as funding is available after all children up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level are covered.

(f) All provisions of this article are applicable to this expansion unless expressly addressed in this section.

(g) Nothing in this section may be construed to require any appropriation of State General Revenue Funds for the payment of any benefit provided pursuant to this section, except for the state appropriation used to match the federal financial participation funds. In the event that federal funds are no longer authorized for participation by individuals eligible at income levels above two hundred percent, the board shall take immediate steps to terminate the expansion provided for in this section and notify all enrollees of such termination. In the event federal appropriations decrease for the programs created pursuant to Title XXI of the Social Security Act of 1997, the board is directed to make those decreases in this expansion program before making changes to the programs created for those children whose family income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

(h) The board is directed to report no less than quarterly to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability on the development, implementation and progress of the expansion authorized in this section.

CHAPTER 9. HUMAN SERVICES.

ARTICLE 5. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

§9-5-12. Medicaid program; maternity and infant care.

(a) The Legislature finds that high rates of infant mortality and morbidity are costly to the state in terms of human suffering and of expenditures for long-term institutionalization, special education and medical care. It is well documented that appropriate care during pregnancy and delivery can prevent many of the expensive, disabling problems our children experience. There
exists a crisis in this state relating to the availability of obstetrical services, particularly to patients
in rural areas, and to the cost patients must pay for obstetrical services. The availability of
obstetrical service for Medicaid patients enables these patients to receive quality medical care
and to give birth to healthier babies and, consequently, improve the health status of the next
generation.

The Legislature further recognizes that public and private insurance mechanisms remain
inadequate, and poor and middle income women and children are among the most likely to be
without insurance. Generally, low-income, uninsured children receive half as much health care as
their insured counterparts. The state is now investing millions to care for sick infants whose deaths
and disabilities could have been avoided.

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Health and Human Resources
participate in the Medicaid program for indigent children and pregnant women established by
Congress under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), Public Law 99-
272, the Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (SOBRA), Public Law 99-504, and the
Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA), Public Law 100-203.

(b) The department shall:

(1) Extend Medicaid coverage to pregnant women and their newborn infants to one
hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty level, effective July 1, 1988, or as
soon as federal approval has occurred.

(2) As provided under COBRA, SOBRA and OBRA, effective July 1, 1988, infants shall be
included under Medicaid coverage with all children eligible for Medicaid coverage born on or after
October 1, 1983, whose family incomes are at or below one hundred percent of the federal poverty
level and continuing until such children reach the age of eight years.

(3) Elect the federal options provided under COBRA, SOBRA and OBRA impacting
pregnant women and children below the poverty level: Provided, That no provision in this article
shall restrict the department in exercising new options provided by or to be in compliance with
new federal legislation that further expands eligibility for children and pregnant women.

(4) The department shall be responsible for the implementation and program design for a maternal and infant health care system to reduce infant mortality in West Virginia. The health system design shall include quality assurance measures, case management and patient outreach activities. The department shall assume responsibility for claims processing in accordance with established fee schedules, and financial aspects of the program necessary to receive available federal dollars and to meet federal rules and regulations.

(5) Beginning July 1, 1988, the department shall increase to no less than $600 the reimbursement rates under the Medicaid program for prenatal care, delivery and post-partum care.

(c) In order to be in compliance with the provisions of OBRA, through rules and regulations the department shall ensure that pregnant women and children whose incomes are above the Aid to Families and Dependent Children (AFDC) payment level are not required to apply for entitlements under the AFDC program as a condition of eligibility for Medicaid coverage. Further, the department shall develop a short, simplified pregnancy/pediatric application of no more than three pages, paralleling the simplified OBRA standards.

(d) Any woman who establishes eligibility under this section shall continue to be treated as an eligible individual without regard to any change in income of the family of which she is a member until the end of the 60-day period beginning on the last day of her pregnancy.

(e) No later than July 1, 2016, the department shall seek a waiver of the requirements that all women seek 30-day approval from the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services prior to receiving a tubal ligation.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to expand comprehensive coverage for pregnant women through Medicaid to 185 percent of the federal poverty level; provide coverage for 60 days postpartum; expand comprehensive coverage for pregnant women between 185 percent and 300 of the federal poverty level including prenatal care, delivery and 60 days postpartum through the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law.
and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.