

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7204

BILL NUMBER: HB 1643

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 29, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Health Care for the Uninsured.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Hasler

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED:

**GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services to cooperate and assist Health Indiana, a nonprofit organization, in providing health care to uninsured residents by: (1) determining eligibility for the program; (2) issuing plan cards to eligible individuals; and (3) operating a toll-free telephone number for participants in the program to receive referrals. The bill requires the Office to: (1) determine whether a potential participant is eligible for any other state or federal assistance program; and (2) inform individuals who seek assistance from the Office about federal, state, and privately run programs available to the individual and the method by which the individual may obtain program services.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill requires the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to assist and collaborate with a not-for-profit corporation called Health Indiana upon its incorporation. The bill establishes a program patterned after Health Kentucky, a private nonprofit charitable corporation that arranges and promotes access to health care for poor and uninsured Kentuckians. Health Kentucky coordinates a network of volunteer provider referral programs. Volunteer health care providers and eight pharmaceutical companies provide health care and medications to eligible patients. Eligibility is determined on an annual basis by county eligibility coordinators and the state staffs a toll-free referral hot line. FSSA has estimated that the potential population to be served could be as large as 150,000 individuals and would require about \$1.3 M in state General Funds annually.

Background Information: The bill requires FSSA to determine program eligibility and issue plan cards. Indiana Medicaid eligibility caseworker expenses are a Medicaid reimbursable administrative expense. Staff time spent on duties unrelated to Medicaid eligibility reduce the amount of personal services expenses reimbursed by the federal government, potentially increasing costs for the state General Fund. The amount of this transferred cost would depend upon the amount of time spent on determining eligibility for unrelated programs or providing referrals to persons determined not to be Medicaid eligible. There are no data

available to indicate how much caseworker time this program may require. FSSA has initially estimated that \$500,000 in state funds would be necessary to determine eligibility. It is not clear what expenses are included in this estimate, although an additional \$110,000 is estimated to be the cost of plan cards that the agency would issue to approximately 150,000 individuals eligible for Health Indiana.

The bill also requires FSSA to operate a toll-free telephone referral number that responds to requests for provider referrals for participants in Health Indiana. FSSA investigated the cost of expanding an existing call center to handle additional volume related to a potential group of 150,000 eligibles; the estimated increased cost was \$652,000.

FSSA estimates are based upon an estimate of the number of all potentially eligible individuals. It would be unlikely that a new not-for-profit corporation would be capable of implementing a statewide program immediately without substantial financial backing. Ultimately, the cost of the program would be dependent upon further legislative and administrative actions, as well as the establishment of the Health Indiana Corporation.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family and Children.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Amy Kruzan, Legislative Liaison for the Family and Social Services Administration, (317) 232-1149; www.healthkentucky.org; <http://www.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl/medicaid/2000report.pdf>

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