

1 HOUSE BILL 186

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Reena Szczepanski

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE; ENACTING A NEW SECTION OF THE PUBLIC
12 ASSISTANCE ACT TO ALLOW THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY
13 TO AMEND THE NEW MEXICO STATE MEDICAID PLAN TO CREATE A STATE-
14 ADMINISTERED HEALTH COVERAGE PLAN; REQUIRING COLLABORATION
15 BETWEEN THE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY AND THE OFFICE OF
16 SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE TO ENROLL INDIVIDUALS IN THE PLAN;
17 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

20 SECTION 1. A new section of the Public Assistance Act is
21 enacted to read:

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAID FORWARD PLAN.--

23 A. Subject to the appropriation and availability of
24 federal and state funds, the secretary shall:

25 (1) amend the New Mexico medicaid state plan

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1 pursuant to the federal act to provide medical assistance by
2 January 1, 2028 to residents who:

- 3 (a) are under age sixty-five;
4 (b) are not otherwise eligible for and
5 enrolled in mandatory coverage or optional full medicaid
6 coverage under the New Mexico medicaid state plan; and
7 (c) have a household income that exceeds
8 one hundred thirty-three percent of the federal poverty level;
9 and

10 (2) in consultation with the medicaid advisory
11 committee and representatives of Indian nations, tribes and
12 pueblos that are located wholly or partially in New Mexico, and
13 consistent with the federal act, promulgate rules that:

14 (a) establish an affordability scale for
15 premiums and cost-sharing based on household income for
16 individuals eligible to enroll in the medicaid forward plan and
17 offer discounted premiums and cost-sharing; provided that such
18 financial assistance is, at a minimum, offered to individuals
19 with household incomes below four hundred percent of the
20 federal poverty level; and

21 (b) set the total amount of premiums to
22 be assessed to medicaid forward plan enrollees, after an
23 actuarial analysis, to ensure maximum access to coverage.
24 Premiums imposed may be set at a level sufficient to offset the
25 costs of health benefits under the medicaid forward plan and

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1 related administrative costs.

2 B. Consistent with the federal act and subject to
3 the appropriation and availability of federal and state funds,
4 the secretary may, in consultation with the medicaid advisory
5 committee and representatives of Indian nations, tribes and
6 pueblos that are located wholly or partially in New Mexico,
7 promulgate rules that phase in coverage to all individuals
8 described in Subsection A of this section.

9 C. The secretary shall consult with representatives
10 of Indian nations, tribes and pueblos that are located wholly
11 or partially in New Mexico to ensure that implementation and
12 expansion of the medicaid forward plan promotes effective
13 communication and collaboration, including information on
14 participation in the medicaid forward plan.

15 D. The secretary shall promulgate rules consistent
16 with and necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

17 E. The secretary and the superintendent of
18 insurance may seek any federal waivers necessary to administer
19 the medicaid forward plan, provide the medicaid forward plan to
20 additional persons and maximize federal dollars to ensure
21 affordability for enrollees."

22 SECTION 2. A new section of the Public Assistance Act is
23 enacted to read:

24 "[NEW MATERIAL] ENROLLMENT.--

25 A. The secretary and superintendent of insurance

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1 shall coordinate efforts and cooperate with the New Mexico
2 health insurance exchange to establish:

3 (1) systems under which individuals may apply
4 for enrollment in, receive a determination of eligibility for
5 participation in and renew participation in medicaid, the
6 medicaid forward plan or a qualified health plan offered
7 through the New Mexico health insurance exchange; and

8 (2) consumer outreach programs to assist
9 individuals with enrolling in medicaid, the medicaid forward
10 plan and qualified health plans offered through the New Mexico
11 health insurance exchange.

12 B. The secretary, the superintendent of insurance
13 and the New Mexico health insurance exchange may coordinate
14 efforts and cooperate to make the medicaid forward plan
15 available for direct purchase through the New Mexico health
16 insurance exchange platform.

17 C. The secretary, the superintendent of insurance
18 and the New Mexico health insurance exchange shall promulgate
19 rules consistent with and necessary to carry out the provisions
20 of this section."

21 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.--Two million dollars
22 (\$2,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
23 health care authority for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 and
24 2027 to hire staff and contract for consulting or technical
25 assistance for the development of the medicaid forward plan

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1 described in Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended or
2 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2027
3 shall revert to the general fund.

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