
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 2530

Brief Description: Concerning foster youth health care benefits.

Sponsors: Representatives Senn, Graves, Caldier, Fey, Stonier, Kagi, McBride, Wylie and Doglio.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows former foster children to continue coverage in the integrated managed health care plan for foster children for up to 12 months following reunification with their parents or guardian.
- Extends the date by which behavioral health services must be fully integrated into the managed health care plan for foster children by three months.

Hearing Date: 1/30/18

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

The Health Care Authority (Authority) administers the Medicaid program which is a state-federal program that pays for health care for low-income state residents who meet certain eligibility criteria. Persons under 19 years old who are in foster care and are under the legal responsibility of the state or a tribe located within the state are eligible for Medicaid. Persons under 21 years old who are either in foster care or eligible for continued foster care services may also enroll in Medicaid. In addition, persons between 19 and 26 years old may receive Medicaid if they either were in foster care and enrolled in Medicaid on their eighteenth birthday or were older than 18 when their foster care assistance ended.

Since 2016 the Authority has provided Medicaid services to foster youth through a single statewide managed care plan known as Apple Health Core Connections. The plan provides all physical health care benefits as well as lower-intensity outpatient mental health benefits. Inpatient mental health services and higher-level outpatient mental health services are provided

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through behavioral health organizations until October 1, 2018, at which point Apple Health Core Connections must offer the services.

Summary of Bill:

A child under 18 years old who was in foster care and is no longer a dependent child may continue enrollment in the integrated managed health care plan for foster children for up to 12 months following reunification with the child's parents or guardian. The child must meet income and eligibility standards for medical assistance and must have been in foster care under the responsibility of the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, or an Indian tribe.

The date for behavioral health services to be integrated into the managed health care plan for foster children is extended from October 1, 2018, to January 1, 2019.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2018.