
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that working-age adults
2 with disabilities need adequate health insurance, but their
3 options for insurance coverage are limited, even with the
4 federal Affordable Care Act. Many who have part-time jobs may
5 not be covered through their employer prepaid health care
6 insurance or employer-sponsored health insurance, forcing them
7 to turn to government-sponsored programs, such as medicaid.
8 However, those who earn more than the allowable amount will be
9 ineligible for medicaid coverage, especially those who receive
10 unearned income and have not paid into private or public
11 disability insurance programs, such as social security
12 disability insurance. In addressing this health care need, S.B.
13 No. 126, S.D. 2, Regular Session of 2011, established within the
14 department of human services a medicaid buy-in program for
15 working people with disabilities designed to furnish health care
16 services to qualified persons who are employed and have
17 disabilities.



1 The legislature while fully appreciating the need for a
2 medicaid buy-in program for working people with disabilities,
3 also recognizes that there are other worthy competing interests
4 for limited state resources. Before statutorily establishing
5 the program and committing the necessary funding and staffing,
6 the expenditure and commitment of limited state resources
7 dictate that the matter should be thoroughly studied, assessed,
8 and accordingly revised to ensure the success of the program.

9 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the speaker of the
10 house of representatives and the president of the senate to
11 establish a joint legislative task force to thoroughly study,
12 assess, and accordingly revise the medicaid buy-in program for
13 working people with disabilities as set forth in S.B. No. 126,
14 S.D. 2, Regular Session of 2011, to ensure the success of the
15 program.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The speaker of the house of
17 representatives and the president of the senate may establish a
18 joint legislative task force to thoroughly study, assess, and
19 accordingly revise the medicaid buy-in program for working
20 persons with disabilities as set forth in S.B. No. 126, S.D. 2,
21 Regular Session of 2011.



1 (b) The chairpersons of the committees with jurisdiction
2 over human services of the respective houses of the legislature
3 shall co-chair the joint legislative task force. The joint
4 legislative task force shall also consist of:

5 (1) The director of human services or the director's
6 designee;

7 (2) The director of health or the director's designee;

8 (3) Representatives from each health care plan contracted
9 with the State under the medicaid program;

10 (4) Representatives from the provider community, including
11 the Hawaii Medical Association; and

12 (5) Representatives from the hospital community, including
13 the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.

14 (c) The joint legislative task force shall:

15 (1) Thoroughly study, assess, and accordingly revise the
16 medicaid buy-in program for working people with
17 disabilities as set forth in S.B. No. 126, S.D. 2,
18 Regular Session of 2011, to ensure that the program is
19 fiscally sustainable and provides health care services
20 to qualified persons who are employed and have
21 disabilities prior to statutorily establishing the
22 program; and



1 (2) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
2 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
3 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
4 the regular session of 2012.

5 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without
6 compensation and shall receive no reimbursement for expenses.

7 (e) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2012.

8 SECTION 3. The legislative reference bureau shall assist
9 the joint legislative task force in preparing its report and any
10 proposed legislation; provided that the chairpersons of the task
11 force submit a draft of the report and proposed legislation to
12 the legislative reference bureau for drafting no later than
13 November 1, 2011, for the report to the 2012 regular session of
14 the legislature.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2075.



Report Title:

Joint Legislative Task Force; Medicaid Buy-in Program

Description:

Authorizes the establishment of a joint legislative task force on the medicaid buy-in program for working persons with disabilities. Effective July 1, 2075. (SB126 HD1)

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