
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that homelessness
2 continues to be one of the State's most significant and
3 challenging social problems. According to the 2016 Hawaii
4 statewide homeless point-in-time conducted in January 2016,
5 there are 7,921 homeless individuals in the State, an overall
6 increase of four per cent from 2015. Homeless persons face a
7 myriad of issues, including general health care, mental illness,
8 substance abuse, loss of employment and income, and a lack of
9 affordable housing.

10 The legislature further finds that many people who
11 experience homelessness have high health care needs and costs.
12 In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, The Queen's Medical Center
13 reported treating 3,441 patients who were homeless, including an
14 unsheltered patient who reportedly received treatment 12,271
15 times over two years, which cost The Queen's Medical Center more
16 than \$5,000,000 per year. For many of these individuals with
17 complex health conditions, housing instability can be a
18 significant barrier to regular health care access, which results



1 in excessive use of expensive emergency department, inpatient
2 treatment, and crisis services. By recognizing the importance
3 of housing stability within the practice of health care for
4 homeless individuals, and exploring creative and innovative
5 solutions to address homeless individuals' health care needs
6 through housing stability from traditional and non-traditional
7 resources, the State may be able to recover the costs that
8 homeless individuals incur over their lifetime.

9 The legislature recognizes that the department of human
10 services and the department of health have piloted efforts to
11 target supportive housing services for a small cohort of
12 chronically homeless individuals through the Hawaii pathways
13 project. The Hawaii pathways project has demonstrated early
14 success in meeting the housing and health care needs of
15 chronically homeless individuals, and the department of human
16 services is working to expand supportive housing services
17 through an amendment of the state 1115 medicaid waiver.

18 The purpose of this Act is to support current efforts being
19 made by the department of human services and to require the
20 department to report to the legislature in regard to its



1 progress in expanding supportive housing services for a broader
2 population of chronically homeless individuals.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services, in
4 collaboration with the department of health, shall review the
5 progress of the Hawaii pathways project pilot and continue to
6 pursue efforts to utilize medicaid to provide supportive housing
7 services for chronically homeless individuals.

8 (b) In planning for the expansion of supportive housing
9 services provided through medicaid managed care plans, the
10 department of human services shall consider the following:

11 (1) Benefit eligibility, including criteria related to:

12 (A) Health conditions;

13 (B) Housing status; and

14 (C) Current or potential system costs;

15 (2) Supportive housing services, including but not limited
16 to:

17 (A) Outreach and engagement;

18 (B) Housing search assistance;

19 (C) Tenancy rights and responsibilities education;

20 (D) Eviction prevention;

21 (E) Service plan development;



- 1 (F) Coordination with primary care and health homes;
- 2 (G) Coordination with substance use treatment
- 3 providers;
- 4 (H) Coordination with mental health providers;
- 5 (I) Coordination of vision and dental providers;
- 6 (J) Coordination with hospitals and emergency
- 7 departments;
- 8 (K) Crisis intervention and critical time
- 9 intervention;
- 10 (L) Independent living skills coaching; and
- 11 (M) Linkages to education, job skills training, and
- 12 employment;
- 13 (3) Applying to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
- 14 Services to pursue an amendment of the state 1115
- 15 medicaid waiver;
- 16 (4) Financing and reinvestment strategies, including:
- 17 (A) Health care costs and housing status of current
- 18 medicaid beneficiaries;
- 19 (B) The degree to which accurate and up-to-date
- 20 information on housing status is available for
- 21 current medicaid beneficiaries;



- 1 (C) Health care costs of current residents of
- 2 supportive housing;
- 3 (D) Health care costs of the medicaid-expansion
- 4 population;
- 5 (E) Potential impact on costs to other systems, such
- 6 as jails, long-term care, and treatment
- 7 facilities;
- 8 (F) Affordable housing investments that can be
- 9 leveraged to create new units of supportive
- 10 housing; and
- 11 (G) Amount of flexible service dollars available to
- 12 cover the costs that medicaid cannot; and
- 13 (5) Administration of the benefit, including:
 - 14 (A) The role of managed care;
 - 15 (B) The role of supportive housing service providers;
 - 16 and
 - 17 (C) Coordination with existing and emerging systems.
- 18 (c) The department of human services shall submit a report
- 19 to the legislature regarding the status of its efforts,
- 20 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days



1 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2018. The
2 report shall include:

- 3 (1) The status of the proposed amendment to expand the
4 state 1115 medicaid waiver;
- 5 (2) A description of supportive housing services to be
6 provided to the chronically homeless population; and
- 7 (3) Proposed eligibility criteria to qualify for
8 supportive housing services.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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Report Title:

Supportive Housing Services; Medicaid; Homelessness; Department of Human Services; Department of Health

Description:

Requires the department of human services, in collaboration with the department of health, to review the progress of the Hawaii pathways project pilot and continue to pursue efforts to utilize medicaid to provide supportive housing services for chronically homeless individuals. Provides considerations for the department in planning for the expansion of supportive housing services provided through medicaid managed care plans. Requires the department to report to the legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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