
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that women who are
2 ineligible for post-partum health coverage struggle to get
3 necessary care during the fourth trimester, the twelve weeks
4 following childbirth. The legislature notes that these twelve
5 weeks are a critical time as women are more likely to die of
6 pregnancy-related conditions during this time than during
7 pregnancy or childbirth. Drug overdoses, suicides, and
8 pregnancy-related chronic illnesses including diabetes, heart
9 disease, and high blood pressure contribute to a rise in deaths
10 among women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the first twelve
11 months after childbirth.

12 The legislature also finds that, according to the United
13 States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, adequate
14 medical attention could prevent three out of five post-partum
15 deaths. Further, medicaid pregnancy coverage, which pays for
16 nearly half of all births in the United States, expires sixty
17 days after childbirth, leaving many women without health



1 insurance during this vulnerable time. Although women may
2 reapply as a parent after this sixty-day time period, because
3 the income limit for parents is lower, many women are unable to
4 qualify for coverage as a parent. However, policymakers in at
5 least six states, including California, Illinois, Missouri, New
6 Jersey, South Carolina, and Tennessee, are working to extend
7 medicaid coverage to a full year after childbirth. Health
8 agencies in Georgia, Texas, Utah, and Washington are making
9 similar efforts.

10 The legislature acknowledges that, according to the health
11 care advocacy group Commonwealth Fund, maternal mortality rates,
12 including deaths during and up to one year after pregnancy, are
13 higher in the United States than in other developed nations.
14 Additionally, while pregnancy-related death rates have dropped
15 worldwide over the past thirty years, these rates have more than
16 doubled in the United States. According to the United States
17 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of deaths
18 per one hundred thousand live births in the United States has
19 risen from seven in 1987 to seventeen in 2016.

20 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to extend the
21 state-funded medical assistance provided to eligible pregnant



1 women for up to one year post-pregnancy in certain
2 circumstances.

3 SECTION 2. Section 346-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 " **[†]§346-70[†] Medical assistance for other pregnant**
6 **women.** (a) The department may provide state-funded medical
7 assistance to a pregnant woman age nineteen years of age or
8 older whose countable family income does not exceed one hundred
9 and eighty-five per cent of the federal poverty level for a
10 family of applicable size, including the expected unborn
11 children. The pregnant woman shall be:

12 (1) A legal immigrant who entered the United States on or
13 after August 22, 1996; and

14 (2) Otherwise eligible for benefits under the State's
15 medicaid program but is prohibited from participating
16 in any medical assistance program under title XIX of
17 the Social Security Act for a period of five years
18 beginning on the date of her entry into the United
19 States, due to restricted eligibility rules imposed by
20 title XIX of the Social Security Act and the Personal



1 Responsibility and Work ~~[+]Opportunity[+]~~

2 Reconciliation Act of 1996.

3 (b) Once determined eligible for medical assistance under
4 this section, the pregnant woman shall continue to be eligible
5 throughout her pregnancy and through the last day of the
6 calendar month in which the sixty-day period following
7 childbirth ends.

8 (c) Any woman who is enrolled in medicaid insurance
9 coverage during her pregnancy shall be eligible for medical
10 assistance under this section for a period ending twelve months
11 following the end of pregnancy, using the same eligibility
12 criteria that qualified her for pregnancy coverage.

13 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Assets shall not be evaluated for eligibility
14 purposes.

15 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The director shall adopt rules pursuant to
16 chapter 91 to determine eligibility for medical assistance."

17 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; Pregnancy; State-Funded Medical Assistance

Description:

Extends the state-funded medical assistance provided to pregnant women for up to 1 year post-pregnancy in certain circumstances. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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