

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Telfer, Verger, Morrisette
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/2, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows a seriously mentally ill inmate incarcerated for twelve months or more, including those not previously determined eligible for Medicaid with severe mental illness, to apply for medical assistance up to 90 days prior to release and to receive medical assistance upon their release. Declares emergency, takes effect upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Criteria for defining mental illness
- Amendment to allow any inmate, not just those that have previously been determined eligible for Medicaid with severe mental illness, to apply for Medicaid prior to release
- Pre-release time frame from 90 days to 90-120 days prior to the expected date of the person's release
- If person found eligible, effective date of the person's medical assistance would be the date of the person's release from the institution
- Increases from 148 to approximately 300 the number of individuals who would be eligible to access Medicaid immediately upon release with process
- Current agency staffing levels could meet increased number of eligible individuals per Department of Human Services

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows any inmate, not just those that have been previously determined eligible for Medicaid with severe mental illness, to apply for Medicaid prior to release.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 275-A allows for reapplication to Medicaid 90 days prior to an inmate's release from incarceration. The Department of Human Services has determined that a 90 day time period does not give the department adequate time to process the disability determination for the individuals, which must occur before Medicaid benefits can be authorized.

Medicaid applications for most individuals who have a disability are processed by the field offices of Seniors and People with Disabilities Division (SPD) of the Department of Human Services. For the past two years, in collaboration with the Department of Corrections (DOC), SPD has processed pre-release Medicaid applications for inmates with serious mental illnesses. To date, there have been 148 individuals with severe mental illness who were able to access Medicaid immediately upon release from prison because of the new process.

The current collaborative process between DOC and SPD allows any inmate who meets the severe mental illness criteria to apply for Medicaid 90 to 120 days prior to their release. SPD and DOC have determined that allowing any inmate with a severe mental illness to apply for Medicaid pre-release improves the chances of obtaining the medical cards they need to access mental health treatment and to continue their medication regime.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.