

SENATE, No. 1475

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Establishes three-year Medicaid home visitation demonstration project.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2016)

1 AN ACT establishing a home visitation pilot program in Medicaid
2 and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. The Department of Human Services, subject to federal
8 approval and the availability of federal financial participation under
9 Title XIX of the Social Security Act, shall establish a three-year
10 Medicaid home visitation demonstration project. The demonstration
11 project shall be designed to provide ongoing health and parenting
12 information, parent and family support, and links to essential health
13 and social services during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood.
14 The demonstration project shall be developed in consultation with
15 the Department of Children and Families and the Department of
16 Health.

17 b. The project shall be modeled on home visitation programs
18 currently administered by the Department of Children and Families,
19 the Department of Health, and the Division of Family Development
20 in the Department of Human Services.

21 c. The project shall be implemented in stages, prioritizing
22 expansion of services in counties with the highest number of births
23 to eligible families and where current home visitation programs
24 provide services to less than 10 percent of the eligible population.

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26 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall apply for such
27 State plan amendments or waivers as may be necessary to implement
28 the provisions of this act and to secure federal financial participation
29 for State Medicaid expenditures under the federal Medicaid program.

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31 3. The Commissioner of Human Services, in accordance with
32 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
33 et seq.), shall adopt such rules and regulations as the commissioner
34 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

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36 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
37 month next following the date of enactment and shall expire three
38 years after the date that the Department of Human Services
39 commences implementation of the demonstration project, but the
40 commissioner may take such anticipatory administrative action in
41 advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this
42 act.

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STATEMENT

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47 This bill establishes a three-year Medicaid home visitation
48 demonstration project. The project would be designed to provide

1 ongoing health and parenting information, parent and family
2 support, and links to essential health and social services during
3 pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood. The bill requires that the
4 demonstration project be developed in consultation with the
5 Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health,
6 and that it be modeled on home visitation programs currently
7 administered by the three different Executive departments currently
8 operating such programs.

9 The project would be rolled out in stages, prioritizing expansion
10 of services in counties with the highest number of births to eligible
11 families and where current home visitation programs provide
12 services to less than 10 percent of the eligible population. It is the
13 sponsor's understanding that this would result in initial expansions
14 in Hudson and Union counties (100 families), Essex and Morris
15 counties (100 families), Middlesex county (100 families), Bergen
16 county (100 families), Ocean county (75 families), and Monmouth
17 county (75 families).

18 The State currently provides home visiting services to over 5,000
19 families Statewide through several different programs. Home
20 visitation programs typically provide frequent and regular visits to
21 new families from pregnancy until the child is aged two or three,
22 but vary in certain details according to the particular model. Home
23 visitation programs encourage positive behaviors and healthy
24 nutrition to prevent poor pregnancy outcomes; identify health or
25 social concerns that may adversely affect a child's home
26 environment; and assist parents in developing skills to promote
27 early learning, language development, and early literacy. Such
28 programs have been demonstrated through academic research to
29 decrease pre-term and low-weight births, increase maternal
30 employment, increase father involvement, decrease child abuse and
31 neglect, decrease welfare costs, improve school readiness, and
32 several other positive outcomes.