

Medicaid Reforms included in the Governor's Bill

- The bill calls for the Department of Health and Social Services to look at all options available to improve the Medicaid program and limit its costs.
- The reforms we are actively pursuing can be found in Section 10 and describe “waivers” and “options” – opportunities to craft the Medicaid program to meet Alaska’s specific needs. They are named after the section of the Social Security Act in which they’re found:
 - The **1115 (Eleven-fifteen) waiver** will enable Alaska to increase the number of Indian Health Services beneficiaries seen by tribal health providers.
 - Results in services for HIS beneficiaries being 100% reimbursed by the federal government instead of the current 50% federal/50% state funding rate.
 - Potential savings of \$100–150 million annually in General Fund.
 - The **1915(i) option** will realize savings for Alaskans who do not meet nursing level of care, but meet other criteria (such as Alzheimer’s, traumatic brain injury, severe mental illness, or individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities)
 - Increases the 50% federal match (from 0% to 50%) for those currently eligible for Medicaid.
 - Individuals in the new Medicaid expansion population will be eligible at the enhanced federal match rate.
 - The **1915(k) option** will improve savings on home and community-based attendant services to Medicaid-eligible individuals.
 - Increases the federal contribution for these services from 50% to 56%.
 - Potential for \$24M annual in combined GF savings for 1915(i) and (k) waivers upon full implementation, which could be 2 – 3 years.
- The bill directs the Department to develop further reforms by:
 - Pursuing demonstration projects for other, new models for payment reform and innovative service delivery. Broad authority here allows us to be able to pursue opportunities as they arise.
 - Enhancing telehealth capability and reimbursement to incentivize telehealth delivery
 - Streamlining audit requirements to better coordinate required federal and state audits and reduce the burdens that audits create for providers.
 - Providing emergency regulation authority to be able to implement savings opportunities quickly