

**ALASKA LEGISLATURE**

**1236**

**HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES,**

**1993-1994**

310

Section 3 of the Bill amends AS 21.36 (TRADE PRACTICES AND FRAUDS) by adding a new section 095 (COVERAGE OF CHILDREN). This new section imposes certain requirements on providers of insurance, relating to coverage of children of the insured who are not in the custody of the insured.

Section 4 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.020(a). This amendment establishes a duty on the Child Support Enforcement Agency to ensure that a medical support order meet the requirements of AS 25.27.063 (see Section 7) and to act on behalf of DH&SS in the enforcement of AS 47.07.025(b) (see Section 18).

Section 5 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.060(c). This amendment establishes a duty on the court to ensure that a medical support order meet the requirements of AS 25.27.063 (see Section 7).

Section 6 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.062(i). This amendment extends the duty of an employer to withhold current child support obligation from an obligor's wages, adding to this amount the obligor's share of any premium for health coverage required to be withheld under AS 25.27.063(c)(4) (see Section 7).

Section 7 of the Bill amends AS 25.27 (CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY) by adding a new section 063 (MEDICAL SUPPORT ORDER). This section sets forth the requirements of a medical support order which requires that the obligor provide health care coverage for the child to whom the duty of support is owed.

Section 8 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.065(b). This amendment is necessary for the sake of conformity. Under current statute, an agreement between an obligor and a person who is entitled to receive support on behalf of an obligee to waive past or future child support is not effective when the obligee is receiving public assistance and the right to receive child support has been assigned to a governmental agency (unless such an agreement has been adopted as an administrative order of the agency). This amendment extends this provision to include an obligee who is receiving medical assistance.

Section 9 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.120(a). This amendment is necessary for the sake of conformity. Under current statute, an obligor is liable to the state in the amount of public assistance granted to a child to whom the obligor owes a duty of support with the exception that if a support order has been entered, the liability of the obligor may not exceed the amount of support provided for in the support order. This amendment extends this provision to include an obligee who is receiving medical assistance.

Section 10 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.120(d). This amendment is necessary for the sake of conformity. Under current statute, if the Child Support Enforcement Agency fails to notify the obligor of the liability accruing due to

the obligee's receipt of public assistance, interest does not accrue on the liability to the state unless a support order has been entered. This amendment extends this provision to include an obligee who is receiving medical assistance.

Section 11 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.130(b). This amendment is necessary for the sake of conformity. Under current statute, if the Child Support Enforcement Agency is establishing or enforcing an order of support, the agency is not limited to the amount of public assistance being granted to the minor child. This amendment extends this provision to include an obligee who is receiving medical assistance.

Section 12 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.130(c). This amendment is necessary for the sake of conformity. Under current statute, if the Child Support Enforcement Agency recovers any amount for which the obligor is liable that exceeds the total public assistance granted, the excess amount shall be granted to the obligee. This amendment extends this provision to include an obligee who is receiving medical assistance.

Section 13 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.130(d). This amendment is necessary for the sake of conformity. Under current statute, if the obligee is not receiving public assistance at the time the Child Support Enforcement Agency recovers money from the obligor for which the obligor is liable, the amount recovered shall be distributed to the obligee for support payments that have become due and unpaid since the termination of public assistance. This amendment extends this provision to include an obligee who is receiving medical assistance.

Section 14 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.130(e). This amendment is necessary for the sake of conformity. Under current statute, if the Child Support Enforcement Agency has recovered an amount for which the obligor is liable and the obligee is no longer receiving public assistance, the agency may not retain an amount in excess of the total unreimbursed public assistance. This amendment extends this provision to include an obligee who is receiving medical assistance.

Section 15 of the Bill amends AS 25.27.130(f). This amendment is necessary for the sake of conformity. Under current statute, if required by federal law, the state shall have first claim on any amount recovered through offset of the obligor's federal tax refund for unreimbursed public assistance received by the obligee. This amendment extends this provision to include an obligee who is receiving medical assistance.

Section 16 of the Bill amends AS 39.35.500. This amendment provides that a public employee's right to receive benefits from the Public Employee's Retirement System of Alaska may be assigned to a trust or similar legal device that meets the requirements for a Medicaid-qualifying trust under AS 47.07.020(f) and 42 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4).

Section 17 of the Bill amends AS 47.07.020 (MEDICAID ELIGIBLE PERSONS) by adding new subsections (f) and (g). Subsection (f) provides that a person may not be denied eligibility for Medicaid on the basis of a diversion of income into a Medicaid-qualifying trust. Subsection (g) provides that a person's eligibility for Medicaid may not be denied or delayed on the basis of a transfer of assets for less than fair market value if the person establishes to the satisfaction of the department that the denial or delay would work an undue hardship on the person.

Section 18 of the Bill amends AS 47.07 (MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY PERSONS) by adding a new section 025 (ASSIGNMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPORT RIGHTS). This new section provides that an applicant for or recipient of Medicaid is considered to have assigned to the state all rights to medical support that the applicant or recipient may have from all sources. In addition, this new section establishes the authority of DH&SS--through the CSEA or on its own behalf--to garnish the wages, salary, or other employment income of persons to whom this section applies. OBRA '93 requires that the Title XIX agency have the authority to pursue collection of medical support debt.

Section 19 of the Bill amends AS 47.07.030 (MEDICAL SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED) by adding new subsection (d). This subsection provides authorization for the department to utilize a case management system under which prior authorization for Medicaid services may be required of certain individuals.

Section 20 of the Bill amends AS 47.07 by adding a new section 042 (RECIPIENT COST-SHARING). Subsection (a) provides: that the State Medicaid plan shall generally impose cost-sharing requirements on eligible persons to the maximum extent allowed under federal law; that health care providers shall collect the allowable charge; that the department shall reduce payments to each provider by the amount of the allowable charge; that a provider may not deny services because a recipient is unable to share costs; and that an inability to share costs does not relieve the recipient of liability for the costs. Subsection (b) provides that the copayment for inpatient hospital services shall \$50 a day, up to a maximum of \$200 per discharge, unless such a copayment exceeds the maximum allowed under federal law. Subsection (c) directs the department to seek waivers from the federal government, allowing the State to disregard the requirement that cost-sharing amounts be nominal.

Section 21 of the Bill amends AS 47.07 by adding a new section 055 (RECOVERY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ESTATES). This new section provides that the estate of an individual who received Medicaid assistance is subject to a claim for recovery of the medical assistance after the individual's death, given the fulfillment of certain circumstances.

Section 22 of the Bill provides that the copayment charges imposed under Section 20 apply only to services performed on or after July 1, 1994.

Section 23 of the Bill provides that the effective date is July 1, 1994.

**SB**

**366**

**SFIN**

**FILE**

# SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/24/94

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 3-24-94  
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4-6-94

Finance Committee considered **SB 366**

Medical support for children; teachers' retirement system and public employees' retirement system; effect of a Medicaid-qualifying trust; recovery of certain Medicaid payments; efd.

and recommends:

- replace with CS SB 366 (FINANCE)  
 or  adopt previous CS \_\_\_\_\_  
 attaches amendment(s)

- same title  
 new title  
 technical title change (HB only)

adopts Senate Finance Letter of Intent

further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

**NEW FISCAL NOTES**

| Department     | Date    | Zero | Fiscal  |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|
| DH&SS-Claims   | 3-25-94 |      | 130.0   |
| DH&SS-Fac.     | 4-4-94  |      | (550.0) |
| DH&SS-Non-Fac. | 4-5-94  |      | (799.1) |
| DCKED          | 4-12-94 | 0    |         |
|                |         |      |         |
|                |         |      |         |

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES**

| Department | Date | Zero | Fiscal |
|------------|------|------|--------|
|            |      |      |        |
|            |      |      |        |
|            |      |      |        |
|            |      |      |        |
|            |      |      |        |
|            |      |      |        |

Appropriation No Fiscal Note

DO PASS:

Steve Rini  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1. Alfred De Pass

Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ben Noy  
Ben Noy  
T. Kelly  
J. Kottel  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 366

Revision Date: 03/25/95 Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services  
 Title: An Act relating to medical child BRU: Medical Assistance Administration  
support, recovery from estates and trusts... Component: Claims Processing  
 Sponsor: Senate Finance Committee  
 Requestor: Senate Finance Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 243

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING         | FY95  | FY96 | FY97 | FY98 | FY99 | FY00 |
|-------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES |       |      |      |      |      |      |
| TRAVEL            |       |      |      |      |      |      |
| CONTRACTUAL       | 130.0 |      |      |      |      |      |
| SUPPLIES          |       |      |      |      |      |      |
| EQUIPMENT         |       |      |      |      |      |      |
| LAND & STRUCTURES |       |      |      |      |      |      |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS    |       |      |      |      |      |      |
| MISCELLANEOUS     |       |      |      |      |      |      |
| TOTAL OPERATING   | 130.0 | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  |

|                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGES IN REVENUES |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

|                          |       |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1002 Federal Receipts    | 65.0  |     |     |     |     |     |
| 1003 GF Match            | 65.0  |     |     |     |     |     |
| 1004 GF                  |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| 1006 GF/MHTIA            |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| Other                    |       |     |     |     |     |     |
| TOTAL                    | 130.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

POSITIONS:

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FULL-TIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PART-TIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TEMPORARY |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: 0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Implementation of the copayment requirements will necessitate several changes to the claims processing system. The one-time contractual cost of these changes is estimated on the attached page.

Prepared by: Kevin Henderson  
 Division: Medical Assistance

Phone: 465-3355  
 Date: 03/25/94

Approved by Commissioner: Margaret R. Lowe  
Margaret R. Lowe, M.Ed., Ed.S.  
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 3-25-94

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ANALYSIS (cont.):

Estimated Cost of One-Time Claims Processing Changes

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Facility Inpatient Claims                 | \$25,000        |
| Facility Outpatient Claims                | \$25,000        |
| Identify and Separate Under Age 18 Claims | \$15,000        |
| Identify and Separate Pregnancy Claims    | \$15,000        |
| Non-facility, Copayment Applied Per Line  | \$25,000        |
| Non-facility, Copayment Applied Per Claim | <u>\$25,000</u> |
| Total                                     | \$130,000       |

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SB 366

Revision Date: 4/4/94 Dept. Affected Health and Social Services  
 Title: Medical child support, recovery from BRU: Medical Assistance  
estates and trusts, and recipient cost sharing Component: Medicaid Facilities  
 Sponsor: Senate Finance Committee  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 230

**Expenditures/Revenues:** (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING                   | FY95           | FY96             | FY97             | FY98             | FY99             | FY00             |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES           | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| TRAVEL                      | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| CONTRACTUAL                 | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| SUPPLIES                    | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| EQUIPMENT                   | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| LAND & STRUCTURES           | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS              | (550.0)        | (1,238.6)        | (1,394.7)        | (1,570.4)        | (1,768.3)        | (1,991.1)        |
| MISCELLANEOUS               | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>      | <b>(550.0)</b> | <b>(1,238.6)</b> | <b>(1,394.7)</b> | <b>(1,570.4)</b> | <b>(1,768.3)</b> | <b>(1,991.1)</b> |
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>0.0</b>     | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       |
| <b>CHANGES IN REVENUES</b>  | <b>0.0</b>     | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       |

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

|                          |                |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts    | (334.0)        | (681.8)          | (763.9)          | (855.7)          | (958.7)          | (1,074.6)        |
| 1003 GF Match            | (334.0)        | (681.8)          | (763.8)          | (855.7)          | (958.6)          | (1,074.5)        |
| 1004 GF                  | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | 118.0          | 125.0            | 133.0            | 141.0            | 149.0            | 158.0            |
| 1006 GF/MHTIA            | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| Other                    | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>(550.0)</b> | <b>(1,238.6)</b> | <b>(1,394.7)</b> | <b>(1,570.4)</b> | <b>(1,768.3)</b> | <b>(1,991.1)</b> |

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: 0.0

**POSITIONS:**

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FULL-TIME | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PART-TIME | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEMPORARY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**ANALYSIS** (attach a separate page in necessary)

This bill would bring DH&SS into compliance with OBRA-93 changes dealing with child medical support orders (42 U.S.C. 1396g) and medicaid qualifying trusts and estate recovery (42 U.S.C. 1396p), and with recipient liability for sharing the cost of Medicaid services. New requirements are placed on employers and insurers when a child medical support order is in effect. New statutory authority (as required by federal law) is provided to the department to seek recovery of Medicaid payments made on behalf of certain individuals in long-term care through the placing of liens on that individual's real property. Fiscal impact is categorized into three components: Facilities, Non-Facility, and Claims processing. This fiscal note shows savings in the Medicaid Facilities component. See attached sheet for details. NOTE: In the Facilities component, the House budget has already reduced the Governor's request by \$550,000 in anticipation of co-pay implementation.

Prepared by: Kevin D. Henderson *Kevin Henderson*  
 Division: Medical Assistance  
 Approved by: Margaret R. Lowe  
 Commissioner: Margaret R. Lowe, M.Ed., Ed.S.  
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 465-3355  
 Date: 4/4/94  
 Date: 4/4/94

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**ESTATE RECOVERY**

Division of Medical Assistance historical data shows that the long-term care caseload for FY 95 is expected to be 1183 individuals. Division of Public Assistance eligibility technicians estimate that the long-term care population will experience an annual death rate of 10 percent. It is anticipated that the long-term care population (including those receiving waiver services) will grow enough to replace the 10 percent who die each year and will increase an additional 6 percent per year. The average amount of estate recovery expected from that population is estimated to be \$1000 per person; this amount is multiplied by the number of cases expected to have money available for recovery (i.e., 10 percent of the caseload, based upon the death rate). The resulting estate recovery is shown in this fiscal note as program receipts.

Death rate in LTC facilities: 10%  
 Average recovery expected: \$1,000  
 Annual LTC facility growth rate: 6%

|  | FY 95          | FY 96          | FY 97          | FY 98          | FY 99          | FY 00          |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Nursing Home (6% growth)                     | 926            | 982            | 1041           | 1103           | 1169           | 1239           |
| Waivers (6% growth)                          | 257            | 272            | 288            | 305            | 323            | 342            |
| <b>TOTAL Caseload</b>                        | <b>1183</b>    | <b>1254</b>    | <b>1329</b>    | <b>1408</b>    | <b>1492</b>    | <b>1581</b>    |
| Estate Recovery Cases<br>(10% of caseload)   | 118            | 125            | 133            | 141            | 149            | 158            |
| <b>Total Program Receipts</b><br>(thousands) | <b>\$118.0</b> | <b>\$125.0</b> | <b>\$133.0</b> | <b>\$141.0</b> | <b>\$149.0</b> | <b>\$158.0</b> |

**MEDICAID QUALIFYING TRUSTS**

The provisions of this bill that allow PERS and TERS beneficiaries to divert pension income into medicaid qualifying trusts parallels federal law which authorizes diversion of social security payments into medicaid qualifying trusts. We do not anticipate an increase in Medicaid utilization solely because of these provisions.

**COST SHARING (Facilities)**

**PROGRAM REDUCTION DUE TO IMPOSITION OF COPAYMENT REQUIREMENTS:** The facilities component will be reduced under the provisions of SB 366 by the amount of copayments for which recipients become responsible. The minimum time required to develop regulations, provider manuals changes, claims payment system changes, and provide required notices and address hearings/appeals is one-half year. For this reason, the amount realized in the facilities component for FY 95 is estimated on a half-year implementation. The cost-shifting to recipients and providers in future years will be doubled and also increased by program growth and further identification of cost-effective copayment potential. We project that Medicaid program expenditures will grow at a 12.6 percent rate annually.

Federal regulations allow the highest ratio of copayment for inpatient and outpatient hospital services. Following the Bill's directive to impose the maximum copayment possible will allow an estimated \$550,000 in FY 95.

|   |       |         |           |           |           |           |           |
|---|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Amount of co-pay plus annual program growth (thousands) | 12.6% | \$550.0 | \$1,238.6 | \$1,394.7 | \$1,570.4 | \$1,768.3 | \$1,931.1 |
|---|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SB 366

Revision Date: 4/4/94  
 Title: Medical child support, recovery from estates and trusts, and recipient cost sharing  
 Sponsor: Senate Finance Committee  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. Affected Health and Social Services  
 BRU: Medical Assistance  
 Component: Medicaid Non-Facility  
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 229

**Expenditures/Revenues:** (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING                   | FY95           | FY96             | FY97             | FY98             | FY99             | FY00             |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES           | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| TRAVEL                      | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| CONTRACTUAL                 | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| SUPPLIES                    | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| EQUIPMENT                   | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| LAND & STRUCTURES           | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS              | (799.1)        | (1,494.6)        | (2,004.2)        | (2,276.6)        | (2,586.0)        | (2,937.8)        |
| MISCELLANEOUS               | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>      | <b>(799.1)</b> | <b>(1,494.6)</b> | <b>(2,004.2)</b> | <b>(2,276.6)</b> | <b>(2,586.0)</b> | <b>(2,937.8)</b> |
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>0.0</b>     | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       |
| <b>CHANGES IN REVENUES</b>  | <b>0.0</b>     | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       | <b>0.0</b>       |

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

|                          |                |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts    | (399.5)        | (747.3)          | (1,002.1)        | (1,138.3)        | (1,293.0)        | (1,468.9)        |
| 1003 GF Match            | (399.6)        | (747.3)          | (1,002.1)        | (1,138.3)        | (1,293.0)        | (1,468.9)        |
| 1004 GF                  | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| 1006 GF/MHTIA            | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| Other                    | 0.0            | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              | 0.0              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>(799.1)</b> | <b>(1,494.6)</b> | <b>(2,004.2)</b> | <b>(2,276.6)</b> | <b>(2,586.0)</b> | <b>(2,937.8)</b> |

Estimate of current year (FY94) impact: 0.0

**POSITIONS:**

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FULL-TIME | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PART-TIME | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEMPORARY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**ANALYSIS** (attach a separate page in necessary)

This bill would bring DH&SS into compliance with OBRA-93 changes dealing with child medical support orders (42 U.S.C. 1396g) and medicaid qualifying trusts and estate recovery (42 U.S.C. 1396p), and with recipient liability for sharing the cost of Medicaid services. New requirements are placed on employers and insurers when a child medical support order is in effect. New statutory authority (as required by federal law) is provided to the department to seek recovery of Medicaid payments made on behalf of certain individuals in long-term care through the placing of liens on that individual's real property. Fiscal impact is categorized into three components: Facilities, Non-Facility, and Claims Processing. This fiscal note shows savings in the non-facility component. See attached sheet for details. NOTE: In the Non-Facility component, the House budget has already reduced the Governor's request by \$400,000 in anticipation of co-pay implementation.

Prepared by: Kevin D. Henderson  
 Division: Medical Assistance  
 Approved by: Margaret R. Lowe  
 Commissioner: Margaret R. Lowe, M.Ed., Ed.S.  
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 465-3355  
 Date: 4/4/94  
 Date: 4-5-94

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**MEDICAL SUPPORT ORDERS**

| RECIPIENT TYPE                                | Cost of Medicaid Per Individual |                     |                       |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|   | # of Clients<br>(FY 93)         | Cost<br>(FY 93)     | Cost Per<br>Recipient |
| Children who receive AFDC                     | 24,961                          | \$39,259,803        | \$1,573               |
| Children (non-AFDC)                           | 3,742                           | \$9,967,083         | \$2,664               |
| Children (1-5 yrs/MCCA-88)                    | 7,092                           | \$12,929,757        | \$1,823               |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>35,795</b>                   | <b>\$62,156,643</b> | <b>\$1,736</b>        |
| Estimated growth in individual cost for FY 94 | 12.6%                           |                     | \$1,955               |

**INCREASED COST AVOIDANCE THROUGH THIRD-PARTY RESOURCES:** Currently, CSED has a case load in excess of 40,000 cases, 19,464 of these cases are AFDC related. As of February 1994, 6,230 of the AFDC related cases have a medical support order and, of those, 1,322 have medical insurance provided at this time. Under other federal law (not OBRA-93) CSED is currently reviewing and modifying all existing cases since 10/1/85 to add medical support orders where needed. This is an ongoing process that is expected to be completed by the end of FY 97. CSED estimates that, by the end of FY 97, all AFDC orders will include a medical support order. All new AFDC related CSED cases are required to have medical support orders. With the anticipated growth in the number of new cases, the completion of review and modification of all existing cases, and the added provisions of OBRA-93 reflected in SB 366, CSED estimates that the number of AFDC cases with medical support orders will total between 22,000 – 23,000 by the end of FY 97. After FY 97, when the backlog is eliminated, the growth in CSED/AFDC cases with medical support orders is expected to be approximately 6% per year. For FY 95, CSED estimates a base of approximately 10,430 total cases with medical support orders. The estimated number of cases in FY 96 is an even split between 10,430 in FY 95 and 22,500 in FY 97.

|   |      | FY 95            | FY 96            | FY 97              | FY 98              | FY 99              | FY 00              |
|---|------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| CSED Cases per year w/ medical orders               | 6%   | 10430            | 16465            | 22500              | 23850              | 25281              | 26798              |
| (6% increase after FY 97)                           |      |                  |                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Cases with third-party payment because of SB 366    | 5%   | 522              | 823              | 1125               | 1193               | 1284               | 1340               |
| (5% of caseload)                                    |      |                  |                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Cost of Medicaid per individual x SB366 cases       | 7.6% | \$2,104          | \$2,264          | \$2,438            | \$2,621            | \$2,820            | \$3,034            |
| (7.6 % growth per year)                             |      |                  |                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Cost of deductibles, co-pay, and uncovered services | 50%  | \$1,052          | \$1,132          | \$1,218            | \$1,311            | \$1,410            | \$1,517            |
| (Not subject to cost collection)                    |      |                  |                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Actual cost avoidance per individual                |      | \$1,052          | \$1,132          | \$1,218            | \$1,310            | \$1,410            | \$1,517            |
| <b>INCREASED COST AVOIDANCE</b>                     |      | <b>\$548,144</b> | <b>\$931,836</b> | <b>\$1,370,250</b> | <b>\$1,562,830</b> | <b>\$1,782,240</b> | <b>\$2,032,780</b> |

**COST SHARING (Non-Facility)**

**PROGRAM REDUCTION DUE TO IMPOSITION OF COPAYMENT REQUIREMENTS:** The non-facility component will be reduced under the SB 366 by the amount of copayments for which recipients become responsible. The minimum time required to develop regulations, provider manuals changes, claims payment system changes, and provide required notices and address hearings/appeals is one-half year. For this reason, the amount realized in the non-facility component for FY 95 is estimated on a half-year implementation. The cost-shifting to recipients and providers in future years will be doubled and also increase by program growth and further identification of cost-effective copayment potential. Copayments for non-facility services are limited by federal regulation to nominal amounts and are, therefore, more marginal on cost-return analysis. Non-facility copayments are estimated to produce \$250,000 in copayment offsets to claims for FY 95. We project that Medicaid program expenditures will grow at a 12.6 percent rate annually.

|  |       |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|--|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Amount of co-pay plus yearly program gro | 12.0% | 250,000 | 563,000 | 633,938 | 713,814 | 803,755 | 905,028 |
|--|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

|  |  |                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|--|--|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL COST AVOIDANCE (Non-Facility)</b> |  | <b>\$799,144</b> | <b>\$1,494,836</b> | <b>\$2,004,188</b> | <b>\$2,276,644</b> | <b>\$2,535,995</b> | <b>\$2,937,808</b> |
|--|--|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|

**FISCAL NOTE**

*4/15/94 This fiscal note sent along to accompany the bill of 4/11/94 was reported out.*

**STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. CSSB366 (FIN)**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: Medicaid and Medical Support Orders  
 Sponsor: Senate Finance Committee  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Affected: Commerce and Economic Development  
 BRU: Insurance  
 Component: Operations  
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 354

**Expenditures/Revenues:**

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 95    | FY 96    | FY 97    | FY 98    | FY 99    | FY 00    |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES      | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| TRAVEL                 | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| CONTRACTUAL            | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| SUPPLIES               | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| EQUIPMENT              | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| LAND & STRUCTURES      | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| MISCELLANEOUS          | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

|                             |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**FUND SOURCE**

|                          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts    | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 1003 GF Match            | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 1004 GF                  | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| 1006 GF/MHTIA            | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Other                    | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

Estimate of current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 0

**POSITIONS**

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FULL-TIME | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PART-TIME | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEMPORARY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Joan Brown, Administrative Officer  
 Division: Insurance

Phone: 465-2597  
 Date: 4/11/94

Approved by Commissioner: Paul Fuhs  
 Agency: Commerce and Economic Development

Date: 4-12-94

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Official Business

# Alaska State Senate

## Senate Finance Committee

Mail Stop 3100  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

**SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**LETTER OF INTENT**  
**TO ACCOMPANY**  
**CSSB 366 (Finance)**

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services shall impose cost sharing charges on eligible persons under the state Medicaid plan to the maximum extent allowed under federal law and regulations; however, if the department has clear and compelling reason to believe that application of this policy to a specific Medicaid service would not promote the purpose of reducing state expenditures or would generate savings that are insignificant in relation to the total cost containment possible, then the department shall have minimal flexibility to waive application of this policy. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the department present a report to the first session of the Nineteenth Legislature, describing the status of implementation of this cost sharing policy, indicating any specific Medicaid service for which this policy was waived, and presenting the rationale for such a waiver. The report shall include a listing of waivers sought from the federal government and an indication of those granted.

3-31-94

S.F.

S-LS1830NE.1 Adopted

Lauterbach

3/28/94

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR FRANK

TO: SB 366

Page 4, line 3:

After "organization,"

Insert "as defined in AS 21.86.900; ✓

~~(4)~~ a"

After "corporation"

Delete ", "

Re-number the following paragraphs accordingly.

SENATE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE

Amendment Number: ①

Bill Number: SB 366

Sponsor: FRANK Date: 3/28/94

Logged In By: FR

3-31-94  
SF  
3  
Adopted

8-LS1830E.2 ✓  
Lauterbach  
3/28/94

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR FRANK

TO: SB 366

Page 1, line 1, after "support":

Insert "and health insurance coverage"

SENATE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE  
Amendment Number: 2  
Bill Number: SB 366  
Sponsor: FRANK Date: 3/29/94  
Logged In By: (FRM)

Explanation: This amendment will bring the bill title into compliance with the constitutional requirement that a bill's title adequately describe its contents. Without the amendment, the bill title does not adequately describe some of the insurance laws added in sec. 3 of the bill.

4-6-94  
8-LS1830E.5  
Lauterbach  
4/5/94

*Adopted  
upon.*

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR FRANK

TO: SB 366

Page 10, line 8:

Delete "The"

Insert "(a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, the"

Page 10, after line 15:

Insert a new subsection to read:

"(b) The state plan developed under AS 47.07.040 shall impose a copayment requirement for inpatient hospital services in an amount that is the lesser of

- (1) \$50 a day, up to a maximum of \$200 per discharge; or
- (2) the maximum allowed under federal law and regulations."

SENATE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE  
Amendment Number: 5  
Bill Number: SB 366  
Sponsor: FRANK Date: 4/6/94  
Logged In By: BRM

4-6-94

AN AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR RIEGER

#6

TO: SB 366

advised

upon

Page 10, Line 15:

Add a new Section to read:

"The department of Health and Social Services is directed to seek waivers from the federal government to allow the department to impose copayments higher than those spelled out in 42 CFR, Chapter IV."

~~and report to the Legislature~~

Submitted

4-6-94

AN AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR RIEGER #7

TO: SB 366

adopted unan.

Add a new section:

Revised

"The department is authorized to use a case-management system by which certain eligible individuals are required to seek approval from the case manager prior to receiving some services under Medicaid, and by which certain services may be denied by Medicaid eligibility if the case manager does not approve the provision of that service. A case manager is authorized to approve the optional services listed in AS 47.07.035 (1) - (25), notwithstanding the priority listing."

Notified legal  
by phone of  
forthcoming  
fax and need  
to rush final.

# A FAX

## Alaska State Legislature

Date: 4-6-94

To: Legal Services - Attn: Peggy

Fax #: 2029 Phone #: 465-6662

From: Senate Finance (Kathy)

Phone #: 465-2618

Re: Please prepare CS5B 366 (Fin) by  
incorporating the attached 5 amendments  
into the original bill. Please return  
final to Rm. 520.

Following this page, please find 5 pages(s). If this does not reach you in full, please inform us ASAP.



# THANK YOU

*Kathy*

*Reworded Amends #6 & 7  
Approved by Sen. Rieger's office (Brian)  
Amends 1, 2, and 5 approved  
by Sen. Frank's office (Dave)*

8-LS1830J ✓

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 366(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to medical support and health insurance coverage for children;  
2 allowing a member of the teachers' retirement system or the public employees'  
3 retirement system to assign to a Medicaid-qualifying trust the member's right to  
4 receive a monetary benefit from the system; relating to the effect of a Medicaid-  
5 qualifying trust on the eligibility of a person for Medicaid; relating to the  
6 recovery of certain Medicaid payments from estates and trusts; requiring persons  
7 who receive Medicaid services to be liable for sharing in the cost of those  
8 services to the extent allowed under federal law and regulations; and providing  
9 for an effective date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 \* Section 1. PURPOSES. The purposes of this Act are to

12 (1) bring the state into compliance with federal law with respect to the recovery of

1 Medicaid payments from the estates and trusts of individuals under certain circumstances and  
2 with respect to the establishment of medical support orders for children:

3 (2) allow diversion of certain employee pension payments into Medicaid-qualifying  
4 trusts if the trusts provide that Medicaid payments made on behalf of the individual may be  
5 recovered from the trust after the individual's death.

6 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.25.200(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) Except as provided in AS 29.45.030(a)(1), member contributions and other  
8 amounts held in the system on behalf of a member or other person who is or may  
9 become eligible for benefits under the system are exempt from Alaska state and  
10 municipal taxes and are not subject to anticipation, alienation, sale, transfer,  
11 assignment, pledge, encumbrance, or charge of any kind, either voluntary or  
12 involuntary, before they are received by the person entitled to the amount under the  
13 terms of the system, and any attempt to anticipate, alienate, sell, transfer, assign,  
14 pledge, encumber, charge, or otherwise dispose of any right to amounts accrued in the  
15 system is void. However, a member's right to receive benefits may be assigned

16 (1) under a qualified domestic relations order; or

17 (2) to a trust or similar legal device that meets the requirements for  
18 a Medicaid-qualifying trust under AS 47.07.020(f) and 42 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4).

19 \* Sec. 3. AS 21.36 is amended by adding a new section to read:

20 Sec. 21.36.095. COVERAGE OF CHILDREN. (a) An insurer may not deny  
21 enrollment of a child under the health care insurance of the child's parent on the  
22 ground that the child

23 (1) was born out of wedlock;

24 (2) is not claimed as a dependent on the parent's federal income tax  
25 return;

26 (3) does not reside with the parent; or

27 (4) does not reside in the insurer's service area.

28 (b) If a parent is required under AS 25.27.020(a)(9) or 25.27.060(c) to provide  
29 medical support for a child and the parent is eligible for family health coverage  
30 through an insurer, the parent's insurer

31 (1) shall allow the parent to enroll the child under the family coverage

1 without regard to restrictions relating to enrollment periods if the child is otherwise  
2 eligible:

3 (2) shall, if the parent fails to apply for enrollment of a child under (1)  
4 of this subsection, enroll the child under the parent's family coverage upon application  
5 by the child's other parent or custodian, the child support enforcement agency, or the  
6 Department of Health and Social Services; and

7 (3) may not disenroll or eliminate coverage of the child unless the  
8 insurer has received written evidence that

9 (A) the parent with the insurance coverage is no longer required  
10 by court order or administrative order to provide the child's medical support;  
11 or

12 (B) the child is or will be enrolled in comparable health  
13 coverage through another insurer that will take effect not later than the  
14 effective date of the disenrollment or elimination of coverage.

15 (c) An insurer who provides health coverage of a child through family health  
16 coverage of a parent who does not have sole physical custody of the child shall

17 (1) provide to the child's other parent or custodian the information that  
18 may be necessary for the child to obtain benefits through the family health coverage;

19 (2) allow the child's other parent or custodian, or the child's health care  
20 provider with the parent's or custodian's approval, to submit claims for covered  
21 services without the approval of the parent whose insurance covers the child; and

22 (3) make payment on claims submitted under (2) of this subsection  
23 directly to the child's other parent or custodian, the health care provider, or a state  
24 agency to which the child's medical support rights have been assigned under  
25 AS 25.27.120 or AS 47.07.025.

26 (d) If an individual is covered for health benefits from an insurer, the insurer  
27 may not impose requirements on a state agency to which the rights of the individual  
28 under AS 25.27.120 or AS 47.07.025 have been assigned that are different from  
29 requirements applicable to an agent or assignee of other individuals covered by the  
30 insurer.

31 (e) In this section, "insurer" includes

- 1 (1) an insurer, as defined in AS 21.90.900;
- 2 (2) a group health plan, as defined in 29 U.S.C. 1167(l) (Employee
- 3 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974);
- 4 (3) a health maintenance organization, as defined in AS 21.86.900;
- 5 (4) hospital service corporation or medical service corporation, as
- 6 defined in AS 21.87.330;
- 7 (5) a writing carrier, as defined in AS 21.55.500; and
- 8 (6) an entity offering a service benefit plan, as referred to in 42 U.S.C.
- 9 1396g.

10 \* Sec. 4. AS 25.27.020(a) is amended to read:

- 11 (a) The agency shall
- 12 (1) seek enforcement of child support orders of the superior courts of
- 13 the state in other jurisdictions and shall obtain, enforce, and administer the orders in
- 14 this state;
- 15 (2) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including
- 16 regulations that establish
- 17 (A) schedules for determining the amount an obligor is liable
- 18 to contribute toward the support of an obligee under this chapter and under 42
- 19 U.S.C. 651 - 669 (Title IV-D, Social Security Act);
- 20 (B) procedures for hearings conducted under AS 25.27.170; and
- 21 (C) subject to AS 25.27.025 and to federal law, a uniform rate
- 22 of interest on arrearages of support that shall be charged the obligor upon
- 23 notice if child support payments are 10 or more days overdue or if payment is
- 24 made by a check backed by insufficient funds; however, an obligor may not be
- 25 charged interest on late payment of a child support obligation, other than a
- 26 payment on arrearages, if the obligor is
- 27 (i) employed and income is being withheld from the
- 28 obligor's wages under an income withholding order;
- 29 (ii) receiving unemployment compensation and child
- 30 support obligations are being withheld from the obligor's unemployment
- 31 payments under AS 23.20.401; or

1 (iii) receiving compensation for disabilities under  
2 AS 23.30 and child support obligations are being withheld from the  
3 obligor's compensation payments;

4 (3) administer and enforce AS 25.25 (Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement  
5 of Support Act);

6 (4) establish, enforce, and administer child support obligations  
7 administratively under this chapter;

8 (5) administer the state plan required under 42 U.S.C. 651 - 669 (Title  
9 IV-D, Social Security Act) as amended;

10 (6) disburse support payments collected by the agency to the obligee,  
11 together with interest charged under (2)(C) of this subsection;

12 (7) establish and enforce administratively under this chapter, or through  
13 the superior courts of the state, child support orders from other jurisdictions pertaining  
14 to obligors within the state;

15 (8) enforce and administer spousal support orders if a spousal support  
16 obligation has been established with respect to the spouse and if the support obligation  
17 established with respect to the child of that spouse is also being administered; [AND]

18 (9) obtain a medical support order as part of a child support order if  
19 health care coverage is available to the obligor at a reasonable cost: the medical  
20 support order must meet the requirements of AS 25.27.063; and

21 (10) act on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services  
22 in the enforcement of AS 47.07.025(b).

23 \* Sec. 5. AS 25.27.060(c) is amended to read:

24 (c) In a court proceeding where the support of a minor child is at issue, the  
25 court may order either or both parents to pay the amount necessary for support,  
26 maintenance, nurture, and education of the child. The court shall issue a medical  
27 support order as part of a child support order if health care coverage is available to the  
28 obligor at a reasonable cost. The medical support order must meet the  
29 requirements of AS 25.27.063. Upon a showing of good cause the court may order  
30 the parents required to pay support to give reasonable security for payments.

31 \* Sec. 6. AS 25.27.062(i) is amended to read:

1 (i) An employer shall, to the extent permitted under 15 U.S.C. 1673(b),  
2 withhold the current support obligation from an obligor's wages, including the  
3 obligor's share, if any, of the premium for health coverage required to be  
4 withheld under AS 25.27.063(c)(4). An employer shall withhold additional income,  
5 to the extent permitted under 15 U.S.C. 1673(b), from an obligor's wages for any  
6 support arrearage.

7 \* Sec. 7. AS 25.27 is amended by adding a new section to read:

8 Sec. 25.27.063. MEDICAL SUPPORT ORDER. (a) A medical support order  
9 issued under AS 25.27.020(a)(9) or 25.27.060(c) must require that the obligor provide  
10 health care coverage for the child to whom the duty of support is owed.

11 (b) If an obligor who is required to provide health care coverage under a  
12 medical support order is eligible for family health coverage through an employer doing  
13 business in the state, the court or agency issuing the medical support order shall send  
14 a copy of the medical support order to the employer.

15 (c) An employer who receives a copy of a medical support order under (b) of  
16 this section

17 (1) shall allow the employee named in the order to enroll the child  
18 under the family coverage without regard to restrictions relating to enrollment periods  
19 if the child is otherwise eligible and is not already enrolled under the family coverage;

20 (2) shall, if the employee fails to apply for enrollment of a child under  
21 (1) of this subsection, enroll the child under the employee's family coverage upon  
22 application by the child's other parent or custodian, the child support enforcement  
23 agency, or the Department of Health and Social Services;

24 (3) may not disenroll or eliminate coverage of the child while the  
25 employee is still employed by the employer unless the employer has eliminated family  
26 health coverage for all of its employees or has received written evidence that

27 (A) the employee is no longer required by court order or  
28 administrative order to provide the child's insurance coverage; or

29 (B) the child is or will be enrolled in comparable health  
30 coverage through another insurer that will take effect not later than the  
31 effective date of the disenrollment or elimination of coverage; and

1 (4) shall withhold from the employee's compensation the employee's  
2 share, if any, of premiums for health coverage to the extent permitted under 15 U.S.C.  
3 1673(b) (Consumer Credit Protection Act) and pay the withheld amount to the  
4 appropriate insurer; if federal regulations allow the employer to withhold less than the  
5 employee's share of the insurance premium, the employer may withhold the lesser  
6 amount and pay it to the appropriate insurer.

7 \* Sec. 8. AS 25.27.065(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) When the right to receive child support has been assigned to a  
9 governmental entity, an agreement under (a) of this section that has not been adopted  
10 as an administrative order of the agency is not effective during a period when the  
11 obligee is receiving [PUBLIC] assistance under AS 47.07 or AS 47.25.310 -  
12 47.25.420.

13 \* Sec. 9. AS 25.27.120(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) An obligor is liable to the state in the amount of assistance granted under  
15 AS 47.07 and AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 to a child to whom the obligor owes a duty  
16 of support except that, if a support order has been entered, the liability of the obligor  
17 for assistance granted under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 may not exceed the amount  
18 of support provided for in the support order, and, if a medical order of support has  
19 been entered, the liability of the obligor for assistance granted under AS 47.07  
20 may not exceed the amount of support provided for in the medical order of  
21 support.

22 \* Sec. 10. AS 25.27.120(d) is amended to read:

23 (d) If the agency fails to comply with (c) of this section, interest does not  
24 accrue on the liability to the state unless a support order or medical support order,  
25 as applicable, has been entered.

26 \* Sec. 11. AS 25.27.130(b) is amended to read:

27 (b) To establish or enforce an order of support, including, if applicable, a  
28 medical support order, based on the subrogation of the state, the agency is not  
29 limited to the amount of assistance being granted to the child.

30 \* Sec. 12. AS 25.27.130(c) is amended to read:

31 (c) The recovery of any amount for which the obligor is liable that exceeds the

1 total assistance granted under AS 47.07 and AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 shall be paid  
2 to the obligee.

3 \* Sec. 13. AS 25.27.130(d) is amended to read:

4 (d) Except as provided in (f) of this section, if the obligee is not receiving  
5 assistance under AS 47.07 or AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 at the time the state recovers  
6 money in an action under this section, the recovery of any amount for which the  
7 obligor is liable shall be distributed to the obligee for support payments, including  
8 medical support payments, that have become due and unpaid since the termination  
9 of assistance under AS 47.07 or AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 under a support order in  
10 favor of the obligee.

11 \* Sec. 14. AS 25.27.130(e) is amended to read:

12 (e) After payment to the obligee under (d) of this section, the state may retain  
13 an amount not to exceed the total unreimbursed assistance paid on behalf of the  
14 obligee under AS 47.07 or AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420.

15 \* Sec. 15. AS 25.27.130(f) is amended to read:

16 (f) Notwithstanding (d) of this section, the state shall, if required under federal  
17 law or regulations, distribute amounts recovered through offset of the obligor's federal  
18 tax refund as past due support with first distribution to the state for unpaid support  
19 assigned to the state under AS 47.07.025 and AS 47.25.345.

20 \* Sec. 16. AS 39.35.500 is amended to read:

21 Sec. 39.35.500. SAFEGUARD OF EMPLOYEE FUNDS HELD BY THE  
22 SYSTEM. Except as provided in AS 29.45.030(a)(1), employee contributions and  
23 other amounts held in the system are exempt from Alaska state and local taxes.  
24 Amounts held on behalf of, or payable to, any employee or other person who is or  
25 may become eligible for benefits under the system are not subject to anticipation,  
26 alienation, sale, transfer, assignment, pledge, encumbrance, or charge of any kind,  
27 either voluntary or involuntary, before being received by the person entitled to the  
28 amount under the terms of the system. An attempt to anticipate, alienate, sell, transfer,  
29 assign, pledge, encumber, charge, or otherwise dispose of a right to amounts held  
30 under the system is void. However, an employee's right to receive benefits may be  
31 assigned

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- (1) under a qualified domestic relations order; or
- (2) to a trust or similar legal device that meets the requirements for a Medicaid-qualifying trust under AS 47.07.020(f) and 42 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4).

\* Sec. 17. AS 47.07.020 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(f) A person may not be denied eligibility for medical assistance under this chapter on the basis of a diversion of income into a Medicaid-qualifying trust that, according to a determination made by the department,

(1) has provisions that require that the state will receive all of the trust assets remaining at the death of the individual, subject to a maximum amount that equals the total medical assistance paid on behalf of the individual; and

(2) otherwise meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4).

(g) A person's eligibility for medical assistance under this chapter may not be denied or delayed on the basis of a transfer of assets for less than fair market value if the person establishes to the satisfaction of the department that the denial or delay would work an undue hardship on the person as determined on the basis of criteria in applicable federal regulations.

\* Sec. 18. AS 47.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 47.07.025. ASSIGNMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPORT RIGHTS. (a) An applicant for or recipient of assistance under this chapter is considered to have assigned to the state, through the department and the child support enforcement agency, all rights to accrued and continuing medical support that the applicant and other persons for whom assistance is sought may have from all sources. The assignment takes effect upon a determination that the applicant is eligible for assistance under this chapter. Except with respect to the amount of any unpaid medical support obligation accrued under the assignment, the assignment under this section terminates when the applicant ceases to receive assistance under this chapter.

(b) Through the child support enforcement agency or on its own behalf, the department may garnish the wages, salary, or other employment income of a person who

(1) is required by a medical support order under AS 25.27.063 to provide coverage of the costs of medical care to a child who is eligible for medical

1 assistance under this chapter:

2 (2) has received payment from a third party for the costs of the  
3 services; and

4 (3) has not used the payments to reimburse, as appropriate, the other  
5 parent or custodian of the child, the provider of the services, or the department.

6 (c) Garnishment under (b) of this section is limited to the amount necessary  
7 to reimburse the department for expenditures for the child under this chapter. Claims  
8 for current support or support arrearages take priority over claims under this section.

9 \* Sec. 19. AS 47.07.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (d) The department may use a case management system under which certain  
11 eligible individuals are required to seek approval from the case manager before  
12 receiving some services under this chapter and under which certain services may be  
13 denied eligibility under this chapter if the case manager does not approve provision of  
14 the service. A case manager may approve coverage of an optional service listed in  
15 AS 47.07.035, notwithstanding that coverage of that service may have been eliminated  
16 under AS 47.07.035.

17 \* Sec. 20. AS 47.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 Sec. 47.07.042. RECIPIENT COST-SHARING. (a) Except as provided in (b)  
19 of this section, the state plan developed under AS 47.07.040 shall impose deductible,  
20 coinsurance, and copayment requirements or similar charges on persons eligible for  
21 assistance under this chapter to the maximum extent allowed under federal law and  
22 regulations. The plan must provide that health care providers shall collect the  
23 allowable charge. The department shall reduce payments to each provider by the  
24 amount of the allowable charge. A provider may not deny services because a recipient  
25 is unable to share costs, but an inability to share costs imposed under this section does  
26 not relieve the recipient of liability for the costs.

27 (b) The state plan developed under AS 47.07.040 shall impose a copayment  
28 requirement for inpatient hospital services in an amount that is the lesser of

29 (1) \$50 a day, up to a maximum of \$200 per discharge; or

30 (2) the maximum allowed under federal law and regulations.

31 (c) The department shall seek waivers from the federal government to allow

1 the department to impose copayments that are higher than those set out in federal  
2 regulations at 42 C.F.R. Chapter IV.

3 \* Sec. 21. AS 47.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 Sec. 47.07.055. RECOVERY OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM  
5 ESTATES. (a) The estate of an individual who received medical assistance payments  
6 is subject to a claim for recovery of the medical assistance after the individual's death  
7 that, except as provided in (b) of this section, may be secured by a lien filed against  
8 the individual's real property during the individual's lifetime if the

9 (1) individual was an inpatient in a nursing facility, intermediate care  
10 facility for the mentally retarded, or other medical institution;

11 (2) department required the individual, as a condition of receiving  
12 medical assistance under this chapter, to spend for medical expenses all but a minimal  
13 amount of that individual's income; and

14 (3) department determined during the individual's lifetime, after notice  
15 and opportunity for hearing, that the individual could not reasonably be expected to  
16 be discharged from the institution and to return home.

17 (b) A lien may not be filed under (a) of this section against an individual's  
18 home if the home is lawfully occupied by the individual's

19 (1) spouse;

20 (2) child under age 21;

21 (3) blind or disabled child as described in AS 47.25.615(3) or (5) or  
22 42 U.S.C. 1382(c); or

23 (4) sibling, if the sibling has an equity interest in the home and was  
24 residing in the home for at least one year before the date of the individual's admission  
25 to the institution.

26 (c) The state may not recover the costs of medical assistance under a lien on  
27 a home under (a) of this section until after the death of the individual's surviving  
28 spouse, if any, and only at a time when neither of the following is lawfully residing  
29 in the home:

30 (1) a sibling of the individual who was residing in the individual's  
31 home for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the date of the

1 individual's institutionalization and who has continuously resided in the home since  
2 the institutionalization began: or

3 (2) a son or daughter of the individual who

4 (A) resided in the home for at least two years immediately  
5 preceding the date of the individual's institutionalization;

6 (B) has continuously resided in the home since the  
7 institutionalization began; and

8 (C) establishes to the department's satisfaction that the son or  
9 daughter provided care to the individual that allowed the individual to reside  
10 in the home rather than in an institution.

11 (d) A lien and claim authorized under (a) of this section are extinguished if,  
12 during the individual's lifetime, the individual is discharged from the institution and  
13 returns home. However, a new lien and claim are authorized for subsequent expenses  
14 if the circumstances described in (a) of this section occur after the individual returns  
15 home.

16 (e) In addition to recovery of medical assistance upon sale of property subject  
17 to a lien authorized under (a) - (d) of this section, after an individual's death, the  
18 individual's estate is subject to a claim for reimbursement for medical assistance  
19 payments made on behalf of the individual under this chapter for the following  
20 services to the extent that those services were provided when the individual was 55  
21 years of age or older:

22 (1) services received while an inpatient in a nursing facility,  
23 intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, or other medical institutions; and

24 (2) home and community-based services provided through a waiver  
25 received from the federal government that allows home and community-based services  
26 to be covered under this chapter for persons who are eligible for coverage under this  
27 chapter while in an institution but who are able to avoid institutionalization because  
28 of the provision of home and community-based services.

29 (f) Other than a recovery upon sale of a home, a claim under this section may  
30 be made only after the death of the individual's surviving spouse, if any, and only at  
31 a time when the individual has no surviving child under age 21 and no surviving child

1           who is blind or totally and permanently disabled.

2                   (g) For purposes of AS 13.16.470, the claims authorized under this section are  
3           debts with preference under the laws of the state.

4           \* **Sec. 22. APPLICABILITY.** The charges provided for under AS 47.07.042, added by  
5           sec. 20 of this Act, apply to services performed on or after July 1, 1994.

6           \* **Sec. 23.** This Act takes effect July 1, 1994.

# Alaska State Legislature

STEVE FRANK

119 N. Cushman, Rm. 213  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 452-3421



While in Juneau  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-3709  
Capitol Rm. 417

## Senate

### CS for Senate Bill 366 (Finance): Sponsor Statement 7 April 1994

Senate Bill 366 was introduced by the Senate Finance Committee at the request of the Division of Medical Assistance within the Department of Health and Social Services.

In large part, the statutory changes proposed in this bill relating to medical child support orders, estate recoveries by Medicaid, and Medicaid-qualifying trusts are required by the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA '93), and DHSS will face a penalty--loss of federal financial Medicaid participation--if legislation is not adopted by July 1, 1994. Additionally, SB 366 directs the Division of Medical Assistance to implement a copayment policy under Alaska's Medicaid plan.

#### MEDICAL CHILD SUPPORT

Certain mandates imposed by OBRA '93 relate to children who are subject to a judicial or administrative medical support order. Section 7 of the Bill sets forth the requirements of a medical support order; Sections 4 and 5, respectively, require the CSED and the courts to ensure that a medical support order meets these requirements.

The Division of Medical Assistance is currently required by federal law to maintain a cooperative arrangement with the Child Support Enforcement Division with respect to the enforcement and collection of medical care payment by or through a parent (see Section 4). Federal law also mandates that Alaska must require individuals, as a condition of Medicaid eligibility, to assign to the State any rights to medical care support by a court or administrative order (see Section 18).

With regard to medical child support, OBRA '93 requires Alaska to implement laws that will:

- (1) prohibit an insurer from denying enrollment of a child under the health coverage of the child's parent on the ground that the child was born out of wedlock, cannot be claimed as a dependent on the parent's federal income tax return, or does not reside with the parent or in the insurer's service area (see Section 3);
- (2) require an insurer, in any case in which a parent is required by a court or administrative order to provide health coverage for a child

and the parent is eligible for family coverage through the insurer, to permit the parent and/or child to enroll regardless of enrollment season restrictions (see Section 3);

(3) require any employer doing business in Alaska that provides health coverage to a child pursuant to court or administrative order to withhold the employee's share of the premium (see Section 6);

(4) prohibit an insurer from imposing special requirements on a State agency acting as a subrogee or agent of a Medicaid beneficiary (see Section 3);

(5) require an insurer to facilitate payment for services to a child in cases where the child has health coverage through the noncustodial parent (see Section 3); and

(6) require the Division of Medical Assistance to garnish wages of individuals who are subject to a medical support order, have received payment from a third party of the costs of services to the child, and have not reimbursed the provider or the other parent or guardian (see Section 18).

With regard to these new laws, Section 3 provides that the term "insurer" includes a writing carrier, an entity offering a service benefit plan, a health maintenance organization, and a group health plan under ERISA.

#### MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERIES

Under current law, Alaska's Division of Medical Assistance may opt to seek recovery of expenditures made on behalf of an individual under its Medicaid program from the individual's estate if the individual was 65 years of age or older at the time of receiving Medicaid benefits, has no surviving spouse, and has no surviving minor or disabled child.

OBRA '93 mandates that Alaska establish an estate recovery program that: (a) identifies and tracks resources of individuals who receive nursing facility, home and community-based services, and other specified long-term care services; (b) promptly ascertains when the individual and the surviving spouse, if any, dies; and (c) provides for the collection of the amounts paid by Medicaid on behalf of the individual for long-term care services from the estate of the individual or the surviving spouse. OBRA '93 also requires that the Division of Medical Assistance establish procedures under which the estate recovery is waived if it would work an undue hardship. Section 21 of the Bill implements these requirements.

#### TRANSFER OF ASSETS TO MEDICAID-QUALIFYING TRUSTS

Federal law currently provides that individuals residing in nursing facilities who dispose of resources for less than fair market value within 30 months prior to applying for Medicaid are subject to a delay in eligibility for nursing facility care and home- and community-based services.

OBRA '93 specifies that such individuals will not be ineligible for Medicaid coverage if the Division of Medical Assistance procedurally determines that the denial of eligibility would work an undue hardship. With respect to the consideration of personal resources for the purpose of determining Medicaid eligibility, OBRA '93 exempts from consideration Medicaid-qualifying trusts which are composed only of pension, Social Security, and other income to the individual under which the State receives any amounts remaining upon the death of the individual. Section 17 incorporates these two provisions, while Sections 2 and 16, respectively, allow an individual to assign TERS and PERS benefits to a Medicaid-qualifying trust.

### MEDICAID COPAYMENTS

Section 1902(a)(14) of the Social Security Act permits States to require certain recipients to share some of the costs of Medicaid by imposing upon them such payments as deductibles, copayments, and similar cost-sharing charges. The charges must be nominal, and certain groups and types of services are excluded from the payments (children under 18, pregnant women receiving pregnancy-related services, institutionalized individuals, emergency services, family-planning services, and HMO enrollees).

Section 20 of the Bill directs that Alaska's Medicaid plan shall generally impose deductible, coinsurance, and copayment requirements on eligible persons to the maximum extent allowed under federal law; however, the copayment for inpatient hospital services is set at \$50 a day, up to a maximum of \$200 per discharge, unless such an amount exceeds the maximum allowed by federal law. Section 21 provides that such charges apply to services performed on or after July 1, 1994. This policy will reduce State expenditures on Medicaid by reducing inappropriate utilization and by shifting costs to recipients and providers.

## POSITION PAPER

## Senate Bill 366

"An Act relating to medical support for children; ..."

Under the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA 93), state Medicaid programs must implement provisions to obtain and enforce medical support orders for noncustodial parents on behalf of Medicaid-eligible children and to recover Medicaid expenditures on long term care and related expenditures for Medicaid recipients age 55 and older. Implementation of these provisions is necessary to avoid loss of federal financial participation in the Alaska Medicaid program.

In addition, OBRA 93 amended federal law to allow individuals to assign their Social Security payments to certain kinds of trusts created for the purpose of qualifying for Medicaid. Senate Bill 366 amends Alaska statutes to allow individuals to assign their payments from the Teachers' Retirement System and the Public Employees Retirement System to these Medicaid qualifying trusts.

Senate Bill 366 also requires the Medicaid program to impose copayments for Medicaid-funded services to the maximum extent possible. This provision will reduce Medicaid expenditures and shift costs to Medicaid recipients and providers.

Position

The department supports the provisions bringing the Alaska Medicaid program into compliance with federal law; these provisions will avoid federal sanctions and result in savings to the Medicaid program. The department also supports allowing individuals to assign TRS or PERS benefits to Medicaid qualifying trusts. The department does not have a position on the implementation of copayments.

Recommended by:

Kimberly B. Busch  
Kimberly B. Busch, Director  
Division of Medical Assistance

Date:

3-25-94

Approved by:

Margaret R. Lowe  
Margaret R. Lowe, M.Ed., Ed. S.  
Commissioner

Date:

3/25/94

LEGISLATIVE INTENT: Senate Bill 366  
Senate Finance Committee

adopted  
& amended

It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services shall impose cost sharing charges on eligible persons under the State Medicaid plan to the maximum extent allowed under federal law and regulations; however, if the department has clear and compelling reason to believe that application of this policy to a specific Medicaid service would not promote the purpose of reducing State expenditures or would generate savings that are insignificant in relation to the total cost containment possible, then the department shall have minimal flexibility to waive application of this policy. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the department present a report to the first session of the 19th Legislature, describing the status of implementation of this cost sharing policy, indicating any specific Medicaid service for which this policy was waived, and presenting the rationale for such a waiver.

The report shall ~~also~~ include ~~the~~ a listing of waivers ~~from the federal government~~ both sought ~~by the department~~ and those granted ~~and granted by the~~

sought from the Fed Govt ~~along~~ and ~~with~~ an indication of those granted.

Kelly - see intercom later!  
M

SFC-94  
3-31-94

8-LS1830NE.4✓  
Lauterbach  
3/30/94

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE  
TO: SB 366

BY SENATOR FRANK

Page 10, line 8:

Delete "The"

Insert "(a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, the"

Page 10, after line 15:

Insert a new subsection to read:

"(b) The state plan developed under AS 47.07.040 shall impose a copayment requirement for inpatient hospital services in an amount that is the lesser of

- (1) \$50 per discharge; or
- (2) the maximum allowed under federal law and regulations."

SENATE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE

Amendment Number: 3  
Bill Number: SB 366  
Sponsor: FRANK Date: 3/31/94  
Logged In By: BN

SFC-94  
3-31-94

8-LS1830E.3 ✓  
Lauterbach  
3/30/94

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR FRANK

TO: SB 366

Page 10, line 8:

Delete "The"

Insert "(a) Except as provided in (b) of this section, the"

Page 10, after line 15:

Insert a new subsection to read:

"(b) The state plan developed under AS 47.07.040 shall impose a copayment requirement for inpatient hospital services in an amount that is the lesser of

- (1) \$25 a day, up to a maximum of \$100 per discharge; or
- (2) the maximum allowed under federal law and regulations."

SENATE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE  
Amendment Number: 4  
Bill Number: SB 366  
Sponsor: FRANK Date: 3/31/94  
Logged In By: RCW

4-6-14

Figures on these sheets  
were not intended.

2 sets copy. 1st set  
Department was for  
4-10-14 and 4-5-14.

SR



## ESTATE RECOVERY PROVISIONS

The long term care caseload expected for FY 95 is 1183 individuals. It is estimated that this long term care population will experience an annual death rate of 10 percent. The average amount of estate recovery expected from that population is \$1000 per person, and is shown above as program receipts, 50 percent of which must be returned to the federal government. The use and cost of long term care services is expected to experience a growth of about 6 percent per year.

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| LTC Caseload Death Rate  | 10%     |
| Average Estate Recovery  | \$1,000 |
| Nursing Home Growth Rate | 6%      |

| LTC Case Load                                | FY 95   | FY 96   | FY 97   | FY 98   | FY 99   | FY 00   |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nursing Home                                 | 926     | 982     | 1041    | 1103    | 1162    | 1239    |
| Waivers                                      | 257     | 401     | 425     | 451     | 472     | 507     |
| Total Caseload                               | 1183    | 1383    | 1466    | 1554    | 1647    | 1746    |
| Estate Recover Cases                         | 118     | 138     | 147     | 155     | 165     | 175     |
| Total Program Receipts Recovered (thousands) | \$118.0 | \$138.0 | \$147.0 | \$155.0 | \$165.0 | \$175.0 |

## COST SHARING PROVISIONS (Facility)

|  |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|--|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Amount of co-pay plus = early growth (thousands) | 12.60% | \$550.0 | \$619.3 | \$697.3 | \$785.2 | \$884.1 | \$995.5 |
|--|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

|                            |         |         |         |         |           |           |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| TOTAL SAVINGS = (Facility) | \$668.0 | \$757.3 | \$844.3 | \$940.2 | \$1,049.1 | \$1,170.5 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|



## MEDICAL SUPPORT ORDER PROVISIONS

| Medicaid provided to :     | COST OF MEDICAID PER INDIVIDUAL |                     |                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|                            | # of Clients<br>(FY 93)         | Cost<br>(FY 93)     | Cost per<br>recipient |
| Children who receive AFDC  | 24,961                          | \$39,259,803        | \$1,573               |
| Children (non-AFDC)        | 3,742                           | \$9,967,083         | \$2,664               |
| Children (1-5 yrs/MCCA-88) | 7,092                           | \$12,929,757        | \$1,823               |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>35,795</b>                   | <b>\$62,156,643</b> | <b>\$1,736</b>        |

**INCREASED THIRD-PARTY RECOVERY:** Currently, CSED has a case load in excess of 40,000 cases, of these 19,464 are AFDC related cases. As of February 1994, 6,230 of the AFDC related cases have a medical support order and of those, 1,322 have medical insurance provided at this time. Federal law requires CSED to review and modify all existing cases since 10/1/85 and add medical assistance orders were needed. This is an ongoing process that is expected to be completed by the end of FY 97. Therefore, all AFDC orders should have a medical support order by the end of FY 97. All new AFDC related CSED case have medical support orders. With the anticipated growth in the number of new cases, the completion of review and modification of all existing cases, and the provisions of this legislation, the AFDC cases with medical support orders will total between 22,000 -- 23,000 by the end of FY 97. After FY 97, when the backlog is eliminated, the growth in CSED/AFDC cases with medical support orders will grow each year by approximated 6%. For FY 95 the total cases with medical support orders is expected to be approx. 10,430.

|   |        | FY 95            | FY 96            | FY 97              | FY 98              | FY 99              | FY 00              |
|---|--------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| CSED Cases per year w/ medical orders<br>(6% increase after FY 97)                    | 6%     | 10,430           | 16,000           | 22,500             | 23,850             | 25,281             | 26,798             |
| New cases per year with recovery<br>(5% increase per year)                            | 5%     | 522              | 800              | 1125               | 1193               | 1264               | 1340               |
| Average Medicaid expenditures<br>(12.6 % growth per year)                             | 12.60% | \$1,955          | \$2,202          | \$2,479            | \$2,791            | \$3,143            | \$3,539            |
| Cost of deductibles, co-pay, and uncovered services<br>(Not subject to cost recovery) | 50%    | \$978            | \$1,101          | \$1,240            | \$1,396            | \$1,572            | \$1,770            |
| Actual cost recovered per person  |        | \$978            | \$1,101          | \$1,240            | \$1,396            | \$1,572            | \$1,770            |
| <b>INCREASED RECOVERY</b>   |        | <b>\$509,833</b> | <b>\$880,647</b> | <b>\$1,394,450</b> | <b>\$1,664,359</b> | <b>\$1,986,513</b> | <b>\$2,371,022</b> |

## COST SHARING PROVISIONS (Non-Facility)

|                                     |        |                  |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Amount of co-pay plus yearly growth | 12.60% | 250,000          | 281,500            | 316,969            | 356,907            | 401,877            | 452,514            |
| <b>TOTAL NON-FACILITY SAVINGS</b>   |        | <b>\$759,833</b> | <b>\$1,162,147</b> | <b>\$1,711,419</b> | <b>\$2,021,267</b> | <b>\$2,388,350</b> | <b>\$2,823,536</b> |



## ESTATE RECOVERY PROVISIONS

The long term care caseload expected for FY 95 is 1183 individuals. It is estimated that this long term care population will experience an annual death rate of 10 percent. The average amount of estate recovery expected from that population is \$1000 per person, and is shown above as program receipts, 50 percent of which must be returned to the federal government. The use and cost of long term care services is expected to experience a growth of about 6 percent per year.

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| LTC Caseload Death Rate  | 10%     |
| Average Estate Recovery  | \$1,000 |
| Nursing Home Growth Rate | 6%      |

| LTC Case Load                                | FY 95   | FY 96   | FY 97   | FY 98   | FY 99   | FY 00   |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nursing Home                                 | 926     | 982     | 1041    | 1103    | 1169    | 1239    |
| Waivers                                      | 257     | 401     | 425     | 451     | 478     | 507     |
| Total Caseload                               | 1183    | 1383    | 1466    | 1554    | 1647    | 1746    |
| Estate Recover Cases                         | 118     | 138     | 147     | 155     | 165     | 175     |
| Total Program Receipts Recovered (thousands) | \$118.0 | \$138.0 | \$147.0 | \$155.0 | \$165.0 | \$175.0 |

## COST SHARING PROVISIONS (Facility)

|  |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|--|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Amount of co-pay plus = early growth (thousands) | 12.60% | \$550.0 | \$619.3 | \$697.3 | \$785.2 | \$884.1 | \$995.5 |
|--|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

|                                   |  |                |                |                |                |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>TOTAL SAVINGS = (Facility)</b> |  | <b>\$668.0</b> | <b>\$757.3</b> | <b>\$844.3</b> | <b>\$940.2</b> | <b>\$1,049.1</b> | <b>\$1,170.5</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|

whether the agency has shown good faith, the Administrator will consider whether the agency has received an unusually high volume of claims which are not clean claims, and whether the agency is making diligent efforts to implement an automated claims processing and information retrieval system.

(2) The agency's request for a waiver must contain a written plan of correction specifying all steps it will take to meet the requirements of this section.

(3) The Administrator will review each case and if he approves a waiver, will specify its expiration date, based on the State's capability and efforts to meet the requirements of this section.

(f) *Prepayment and postpayment claims review.* (1) For all claims, the agency must conduct prepayment claims review consisting of—

(i) Verification that the recipient was included in the eligibility file and that the provider was authorized to furnish the service at the time the service was furnished;

(ii) Checks that the number of visits and services delivered are logically consistent with the recipient's characteristics and circumstances, such as type of illness, age, sex, service location;

(iii) Verification that the claim does not duplicate or conflict with one reviewed previously or currently being reviewed;

(iv) Verification that a payment does not exceed any reimbursement rates or limits in the State plan; and

(v) Checks for third party liability within the requirements of § 433.137 of this chapter.

(2) The agency must conduct post-payment claims review that meets the requirements of parts 455 and 456 of this chapter, dealing with fraud and utilization control.

(g) *Reports.* The agency must provide any reports and documentation on compliance with this section that the Administrator may require.

(Secs. 1102 and 1902(a)(37) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1302, 1396a(a)(37)))

[44 FR 30344, May 25, 1979, as amended at 55 FR 1434, Jan. 16, 1990]

COST SHARING

§ 447.50 Cost sharing: Basis and purpose.

(a) Section 1902(a)(14) of the Act permits States to require certain recipients to share some of the costs of Medicaid by imposing upon them such payments as enrollment fees, premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, co-payments, or similar cost sharing charges. For States that impose cost sharing payments, §§ 447.51 through 447.59 prescribe State plan requirements and options for cost sharing, specify the standards and conditions under which States may impose cost sharing, set forth minimum amounts and the methods for determining maximum amounts, and prescribe conditions for FFP that relate to cost sharing requirements.

ENROLLMENT FEE, PREMIUM OR SIMILAR COST SHARING CHARGE

§ 447.51 Requirements and options.

(a) The plan must provide that the Medicaid agency does not impose any enrollment fee, premium, or similar charge upon categorically needy individuals, as defined in §§ 435.4 and 436.3 of this subchapter, for any services available under the plan.

(b) The plan may impose an enrollment fee, premium, or similar charge on medically needy individuals, as defined in §§ 435.4 and 436.3 of this subchapter, for any services available under the plan.

(c) For each charge imposed under paragraph (b) of this section, the plan must specify—

(1) The amount of the charge;

(2) The period of liability for the charge; and

(3) The consequences for an individual who does not pay.

(d) The plan must provide that any charge imposed under paragraph (b) of this section is related to total gross family income as set forth under § 447.52.

§ 447.52 Minimum and maximum income-related charges.

For the purpose of relating the amount of an enrollment fee, premium, or similar charge to total gross

family income, as required under § 447.51(d), the following rules apply:

(a) *Minimum charge.* A charge of at least \$1.00 per month is imposed on each—

- (1) One- or two-person family with monthly gross income of \$150 or less;
- (2) Three- or four-person family with monthly gross income of \$300 or less; and
- (3) Five- or more-person family with monthly gross income of \$350 or less.

(b) *Maximum charge.* Any charge related to gross family income that is above the minimum listed in paragraph (a) of this section may not exceed the standards shown in the following table:

MAXIMUM MONTHLY CHARGE

| Gross family income (per month) | Family size |        |           |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------|-----------|
|                                 | 1 or 2      | 3 or 4 | 5 or more |
| \$150 or less.....              | \$1         | \$1    | \$1       |
| \$151 to \$200.....             | 2           | 1      | 1         |
| \$201 to \$250.....             | 3           | 1      | 1         |
| \$251 to \$300.....             | 4           | 1      | 1         |
| \$301 to \$350.....             | 5           | 2      | 1         |
| \$351 to \$400.....             | 6           | 3      | 2         |
| \$401 to \$450.....             | 7           | 4      | 3         |
| \$451 to \$500.....             | 8           | 5      | 4         |
| \$501 to \$550.....             | 9           | 6      | 5         |
| \$551 to \$600.....             | 10          | 7      | 6         |
| \$601 to \$650.....             | 11          | 8      | 7         |
| \$651 to \$700.....             | 12          | 9      | 8         |
| \$701 to \$750.....             | 13          | 10     | 9         |
| \$751 to \$800.....             | 14          | 11     | 10        |
| \$801 to \$850.....             | 15          | 12     | 11        |
| \$851 to \$900.....             | 16          | 13     | 12        |
| \$901 to \$950.....             | 17          | 14     | 13        |
| \$951 to \$1,000.....           | 18          | 15     | 14        |
| More than \$1,000.....          | 19          | 16     | 15        |

(c) *Income-related charges.* The agency must impose an appropriately higher charge for each higher level of family income, within the maximum amounts specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

[43 FR 45253, Sept. 29, 1978, as amended at 45 FR 24889, Apr. 11, 1980]

DEDUCTIBLE, COINSURANCE, CO-PAYMENT OR SIMILAR COST-SHARING CHARGE

447.53 Applicability; specification: multiple charges.

(a) *Basic requirements.* Except as specified in paragraph (b) of this section, the plan may impose a nominal deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or

similar charge upon categorically and medically needy individuals for any service under the plan.

(b) *Exclusions from cost sharing.* The plan may not provide for impositions of a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or similar charge upon categorically or medically needy individuals (except as specified in paragraph (b)(6) of this section) for the following:

(1) *Children.* Services furnished to individuals under 18 years of age (and, at the option of the State, individuals under 21, 20, or 19 years of age, or any reasonable category of individuals 18 years of age or over but under 21) are excluded from cost sharing.

(2) *Pregnant women.* Services furnished to pregnant women if such services related to the pregnancy, or to any other medical condition which may complicate the pregnancy are excluded from cost sharing obligations. These services include routine prenatal care, labor and delivery, routine post-partum care, family planning services, complications of pregnancy or delivery likely to affect the pregnancy, such as hypertension, diabetes, urinary tract infection, and services furnished during the postpartum period for conditions or complications related to the pregnancy. The postpartum period is the immediate postpartum period which begins on the last day of pregnancy and extends through the end of the month in which the 60-day period following termination of pregnancy ends. States may further exclude from cost sharing all services furnished to pregnant women if they desire.

(3) *Institutionalized individuals.* Services furnished to any individual who is an inpatient in a hospital, long-term care facility, or other medical institution if the individual is required (pursuant to § 435.725, § 435.733, § 435.822 or § 435.832) as a condition of receiving services in the institution, to spend all but a minimal amount of his income required for personal needs, for medical care costs are excluded from cost sharing.

(4) *Emergency services.* Services provided in a hospital, clinic, office, or other facility that is equipped to furnish the required care, after the

sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in—

- (i) Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;
- (ii) Serious impairment to bodily functions; or
- (iii) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

(5) *Family planning.* Family planning services and supplies furnished to individuals of child-bearing age are excluded from cost sharing.

(6) *HMO Enrollees.* Services furnished by a health maintenance organization (HMO) to categorically needy individuals enrolled in the HMO are excluded from cost sharing. States may further exclude copayment charges for HMO services furnished to medically needy individuals.

(c) *Prohibition against multiple charges.* For any service, the plan may not impose more than one type of charge referred to in paragraph (a) of this section.

(d) *State plan specifications.* For each charge imposed under this section, the plan must specify—

- (1) The service for which the charge is made;
- (2) The amount of the charge;
- (3) The basis for determining the charge;
- (4) The basis for determining whether an individual is unable to pay the charge and the means by which such an individual will be identified to providers; and
- (5) The procedures for implementing and enforcing the exclusions from cost sharing found in paragraph (b) of this section.

[43 FR 45253, Sept. 29, 1978, as amended at 47 FR 21051, May 17, 1982; 48 FR 5736, Jan. 8, 1983; 50 FR 23013, May 30, 1985; 55 FR 48611, Nov. 21, 1990; 55 FR 52130, Dec. 19, 1990]

§ 447.54 Maximum allowable charges.

(a) *Non-institutional services.*

Except as specified in paragraph (b), for non-institutional services, the plan must provide that—

- (1) Any deductible it imposes does not exceed \$2.00 per month per family

for each period of Medicaid eligibility. For example, if Medicaid eligibility is certified for a 3-month period, the maximum deductible which may be imposed on a family for that period of eligibility is \$6.00;

(2) Any coinsurance rate it imposes does not exceed 5 percent of the payment the agency makes for the services; and

(3) Any co-payments it imposes do not exceed the amounts shown in the following table:

| States payment for the service | Maximum copayment chargeable to recipient |
|--------------------------------|---|
| \$10 or less.....              | \$.50                                     |
| \$10.01 to \$25.....           | 1.00                                      |
| \$25.01 to \$50.....           | 2.00                                      |
| \$50.01 or more.....           | 3.00                                      |

(b) *Waiver of the requirement that cost sharing amounts be nominal.* Upon approval from HCFA, the requirement that cost sharing charges must be nominal may be waived, in accordance with section 431.55(g) for nonemergency services furnished in hospital emergency room.

(c) *Institutional services.* For institutional services, the plan must provide that the maximum deductible, coinsurance or co-payment charge for each admission does not exceed 50 percent of the payment the agency makes for the first day of care in the institution.

(d) *Cumulative maximum.* The plan may provide for a cumulative maximum amount for all deductible, coinsurance or co-payment charges that it imposes on any family during a specified period of time.

[48 FR 5736, Jan. 3, 1983]

§ 447.55 Standard co-payment.

(a) The plan may provide for a standard, or fixed, co-payment amount for any service.

(b) This standard copayment amount for any service may be determined by applying the maximum copayment amounts specified in § 447.54 (a) and (b) to the agency's average or typical payment for that service. For

example, if the agency's typical payment for prescribed drugs is \$4 to \$5 per prescription, the agency might set a standard copayment of \$0.50 per prescription.

**§ 447.56 Income-related charges.**

Subject to the maximum allowable charges specified in § 447.54 (a) and (b), the plan may provide for income-related deductible, coinsurance or copayment charges. For example, an agency may impose a higher charge on medically needy recipients than it imposes upon categorically needy recipients.

**§ 447.57 Restrictions on payments to providers.**

(a) The plan must provide that the agency does not increase the payment it makes to any provider to offset uncollected amounts for deductibles, coinsurance, copayments or similar charges that the provider has waived or are uncollectable, except as permitted under paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) For those providers that the agency reimburses under Medicare reasonable cost reimbursement principles, in accordance with subpart B of this part, an agency may increase its payment to offset uncollected deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or similar charges that are bad debts of providers.

**§ 447.58 Payments to prepaid capitation organizations.**

Except for HMO services subject to the co-payment exclusion in § 447.53(b)(6), if the agency contracts with a prepaid capitation organization that does not impose the agency's deductibles, coinsurance, co-payments or similar charges on its recipient members, the plan must provide that the agency calculates its payments to the organization as if those cost sharing charges were collected.

[48 FR 5736, Jan. 8, 1983]

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION**

**§ 447.59 FFP: Conditions relating to cost sharing.**

No FFP in the State's expenditures for services is available for—

(a) Any cost sharing amounts that recipients should have paid as enrollment fees, premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, or similar charges under §§ 447.50 through 447.58 (except for amounts that the agency pays as bad debts of providers under § 447.57); and

(b) Any amounts paid by the agency on behalf of ineligible individuals, whether or not the individual had paid any required premium or enrollment fee.

**Subpart B—Payment Methods:  
General Provisions**

**§ 447.200 Basis and purpose.**

This subpart prescribes State plan requirements for setting payment rates to implement, in part, section 1902(a)(30) of the Act, which requires that payments for services be consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care.

[46 FR 48560, Oct. 1, 1981]

**§ 447.201 State plan requirements.**

(a) A State plan must provide that the requirements in this subpart are met.

(b) The plan must describe the policy and the methods to be used in setting payment rates for each type of service included in the State's Medicaid program.

**§ 447.202 Audits.**

The Medicaid agency must assure appropriate audit of records if payment is based on costs of services or on a fee plus cost of materials.

**§ 447.203 Documentation of payment rates.**

(a) The agency must maintain documentation of payment rates and make it available to HHS upon request.

(b) The agency must record, in State manuals or other official files, the following information for increases in payment rates for individual practitioner services:

(1) An estimate of the percentile of the range of customary charges to which the revised payment structure

# Legislative Research Agency

Alaska State Legislature




130 Seward Street, Suite 218  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2196

Phone: (907) 465-3991  
Fax: (907) 463-3351

March 10, 1994

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Steve Frank

FROM: Paula d. Scavera   
Legislative Analyst

RE: **Proposed Copayments for Medicaid Services**  
Research Request 94.145

You requested an analysis of how much the state would save if Alaska medicaid patients were required to pay a small amount for their medical care. Copayments for certain medicaid services are allowed under federal regulations and used in 25 states and the District of Columbia.

A copayment may be imposed for most, but not all medicaid services. Federal regulations shield certain groups from requirements for copayments (attached). Among the groups excluded from being charged copayments are children under 18 years of age (and at the option of the state, individuals under 21, 20 or 19 years of age) and pregnant women seeking care for services related to their pregnancy. Institutionalized individuals who must "spend-down" (spend all but a minimal amount of their income required for personal needs) as a condition of receiving services are excluded from copayments. Emergency and family planning services are also exempt from copayment as are enrollees in health maintenance organizations (HMOs; there are no HMOs in Alaska).

Attached is a table that shows the amount of money that would have been saved in FY 93 by the medicaid program if a \$2 or \$3 copayment had been required. The data used in the table to compute these estimates are from a variety of sources. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) provided the number of recipients, total payments and visits for FY 93, except for hospital outpatient, and mental hospital inpatient categories. These latter numbers were obtained from a previous Legislative Research Agency memorandum and represent FY 92 numbers. Excluded from the table are data about ambulance and transport services, as they were unobtainable from H&SS or other sources at hand.

Senator Frank  
March 10, 1994  
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To estimate the FY 95 recipients, visits, and savings, the FY 93 figures were increased 39.42 percent, which is the amount of increase in the medical assistance budget from FY 93 actual expenditures to the proposed FY 95 budget. The source for this percentage increase was Legislative Finance.

Column 11 (>20) represents the percentage of medicaid recipients that H&SS assumes would be required to make a copayment. This assumption exceeds minimum federal requirements. The department excludes all services for pregnant women, for all children under 21, for all institutionalized persons, for all persons under a prepaid health plan, and those served under home and community-based services. Thus, the percentages in column 11 are a conservative estimate. As a result, the estimated copayments in the final column are likely underestimated.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact us.

.Attachment

Proposed Copayments for Medicaid Services in Alaska  
Comparison of FY 93 with FY 95

| (1)<br>Type of Visit/Service   | (2)<br>Provider Type            | FY 93                      |                 |               |                                | FY 95 Estimated            |                    |               |                         |                  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
|  |                                 | (3)<br>Total<br>Recipients | (4)<br>Payments | (5)<br>Visits | (6)<br>Estimated<br>Copayments | (7)<br>Total<br>Recipients | (8)<br>Payments    | (9)<br>Visits | (10)<br>Copay<br>Amount | (11)<br>%<br>>20 | (12)<br>Estimated<br>Copayments |
| Physician Service Visits   | Physician-Individual            | 33,237                     | \$24,745,658    | 137,035       | \$172,664                      | 46,339                     | \$34,500,396       | 191,054       | \$3.00                  | 42%              | \$240,728                       |
|  | Physician-Group                 | 33,226                     | \$16,539,099    | 120,511       | \$151,844                      | 46,324                     | \$23,058,812       | 168,016       | \$3.00                  | 42%              | \$211,701                       |
| Certified Nurse Practitioner Services                                | Nurse Practitioner              | 864                        | \$79,907        | 1,081         | \$1,913                        | 1,205                      | \$111,406          | 1,507         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$2,668                         |
| Optometric/Option/Vision<br>Service Visits                           | Optometrist                     | 8,294                      | \$859,909       | 11,192        | \$19,810                       | 11,563                     | \$1,198,885        | 15,604        | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$27,619                        |
|  | Optician                        | 2,162                      | \$230,680       | 3,313         | \$5,864                        | 3,014                      | \$321,614          | 4,619         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$8,176                         |
|  | Vision Group                    | 2,108                      | \$250,970       | 2,987         | \$5,287                        | 2,939                      | \$322,018          | 4,164         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$7,371                         |
| Dental Services or Treatment Visits                                  | Dentist-Individual              | 14,796                     | \$5,734,834     | 25,551        | \$52,124                       | 20,629                     | \$7,995,506        | 35,623        | \$3.00                  | 68%              | \$72,671                        |
|  | Dentist-Group                   | 5,650                      | \$1,697,504     | 7,567         | \$15,437                       | 7,877                      | \$2,366,660        | 10,550        | \$3.00                  | 68%              | \$21,522                        |
| Chiropractic Services Visits   | Chiropractor-Ind.               | 1,734                      | \$374,552       | 3,505         | \$4,311                        | 2,418                      | \$522,200          | 4,887         | \$3.00                  | 41%              | \$6,011                         |
|  | Chiropractor-Group              | 539                        | \$121,644       | 854           | \$1,050                        | 751                        | \$169,596          | 1,191         | \$3.00                  | 41%              | \$1,464                         |
| Physical Therapy Visits  | Outpatient Patient              | 305                        | \$189,107       | 4,952         | \$4,061                        | 425                        | \$263,653          | 6,904         | \$2.00                  | 41%              | \$5,661                         |
|  | Independent Patient             | 465                        | \$196,155       | 6,418         | \$5,263                        | 648                        | \$273,479          | 8,948         | \$2.00                  | 41%              | \$7,337                         |
| Private Duty Nurse/Personal<br>Care Visits                           | PC Attendant                    | 88                         | \$986,221       | 2,608         | \$7,824                        | 123                        | \$1,374,989        | 3,636         | \$3.00                  | 100%             | \$10,908                        |
|  | PC Agency                       | 539                        | \$1,273,157     | 4,706         | \$5,647                        | 751                        | \$1,775,035        | 6,561         | \$3.00                  | 40%              | \$7,873                         |
|  | PC Nurse                        | 60                         | \$3,285         | 94            | \$133                          | 84                         | \$4,580            | 131           | \$2.00                  | 71%              | \$186                           |
| Generic Drug Prescriptions Filled<br>Brand-Name Prescriptions Filled | Pharmacy<br>Included in Generic | 37,230                     | \$14,492,682    | 219,901       | \$310,060                      | 51,906                     | \$20,205,697       | 306,586       | \$3.00                  | 47%              | \$432,286                       |
| Rural Health Clinic Visits   | Rural Health Clinic             | 405                        | \$66,275        | 1,342         | \$1,181                        | 565                        | \$92,401           | 1,871         | \$2.00                  | 44%              | \$1,646                         |
| Podiatric Services Visits  | Podiatry-Individual             | 97                         | \$4,012         | 130           | \$153                          | 135                        | \$5,594            | 181           | \$2.00                  | 59%              | \$214                           |
| Durable Medical Equipment Purchased                                  | DME Supplier                    | 1,804                      | \$2,179,482     | 4,587         | \$8,119                        | 2,515                      | \$3,038,634        | 6,395         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$11,319                        |
| Psychiatry/Psychology/<br>Psychotherapy Visits                       | Psychologist                    | 3                          | \$7,995         | 46            | \$81                           | 11                         | \$11,147           | 64            | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$114                           |
| Audiology Services Visits  | Audiologist                     | 963                        | \$122,997       | 2,292         | \$4,057                        | 1,343                      | \$171,482          | 3,196         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$5,656                         |
| Prosthetic Devised Purchased   | P & O Supplier                  | 435                        | \$396,161       | 900           | \$1,593                        | 606                        | \$552,328          | 1,255         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$2,221                         |
| Hearing Aids/Hearing Aid Services                                    | Hearing Aid Supplies            | 423                        | \$186,419       | 1,373         | \$2,430                        | 590                        | \$259,905          | 1,914         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$3,388                         |
| Home Health Services Visits  | Home Health Agency              | 307                        | \$513,098       | 776           | \$1,653                        | 428                        | \$715,361          | 1,082         | \$3.00                  | 71%              | \$2,304                         |
| Occupational Therapy Visits  | Occupational Ther.              | 1                          | \$347           | 24            | \$14                           | 1                          | \$484              | 33            | \$1.00                  | 59%              | \$20                            |
| Speech Therapy Visits  | Cert. Speech Path.              | 151                        | \$247,488       | 2,872         | \$5,083                        | 211                        | \$345,048          | 4,004         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$7,087                         |
| Ambulatory Surgical Center Visits                                    | Amb. Surgical Center            | 1,434                      | \$678,865       | 1,589         | \$2,813                        | 1,999                      | \$946,474          | 2,215         | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$3,921                         |
| Community/Mental Health Center Visits                                | M. Health Agency                | 4,989                      | \$6,961,008     | 94,420        | \$167,123                      | 6,956                      | \$9,705,037        | 131,640       | \$3.00                  | 59%              | \$233,003                       |
|  | Hospital<br>Inpatient           | 7,913                      | Not Available   | 11,750        | \$352,500                      | 11,032                     | \$0                | 16,382        | \$100.00                | 30%              | \$491,456                       |
|  | Hospital (FY 92)<br>Outpatient  | 23,131                     | \$10,739,954    | 23,131        | \$34,697                       | 32,249                     | \$14,973,644       | 32,249        | \$3.00                  | 50%              | \$48,374                        |
| Mental Hospital (FY 92)  | Inpatient                       | 643                        | \$8,293,110     | 643           | \$19,290                       | 896                        | \$11,562,254       | 896           | \$100.00                | 30%              | \$26,894                        |
| <b>Total Estimated Medicaid Copayments</b>                           |                                 |                            |                 |               | <b>\$1,364,081</b>             |                            | <b>\$1,901,801</b> |               |                         |                  |                                 |

Source: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Medical Assistance: FY 93 data  
 Division of Legislative Finance: Percentage increase  
 Hospital Outpatient and Mental Hospital Inpatient data: Legislative Research Agency Memorandum 93.103 "Medicaid: Where the Money Goes"

Department of Health and Human Services

**OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**MEDICAID COST SHARING**



**JULY 1993      OEI-03-91-01800**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## PURPOSE

To (1) review State Medicaid cost sharing policies and (2) determine their impact on the program.

## BACKGROUND

Medicaid is one of the fastest growing programs in Federal and State budgets. Total Medicaid expenditures grew from \$72.1 billion in 1990 to \$94.5 billion in 1991, an increase of 31 percent. As Medicaid costs continue to rise, Federal and State officials are searching for cost containment measures.

One of the fastest growing trends in corporate health care cost containment is greater beneficiary cost sharing. Cost sharing requires beneficiaries to pay a portion of their health care costs. State Medicaid programs have also increasingly been using cost sharing as a cost containment method. States not currently using cost sharing policies may begin to reexamine the issue since Medicaid now absorbs 14 cents of every State dollar spent.

Section 1902(a)(14) of the Social Security Act provides that Medicaid may impose "enrollment fees, premiums, or similar charges, and deductions, cost sharing, or similar charges." Children, HMO enrollees, pregnancy services, emergency services, hospice services, and services provided to residents of nursing facilities or medical institutions, are exempt from cost sharing.

To examine States' cost sharing policies, we collected detailed information from State Medicaid directors. We also reviewed data collected by the Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA) information systems.

## FINDINGS

*Twenty-seven States use cost sharing in their Medicaid programs.*

*Cost sharing programs save money.*

*States without cost sharing could save between \$167 and \$335 million annually (of which the Federal share would be \$99 to \$198 million) by applying cost sharing to just four services – inpatient hospital, outpatient hospital, physician visits, and prescription drugs.*

*States with cost sharing do not report significant impacts on utilization of services or access to care.*

## AGENCY COMMENTS

The HCFA and the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget commented on the draft report; the full text of their comments is in Appendix D. Neither agency concurred with our draft recommendation. We have made several changes in response to their suggestions. However, we believe that the available evidence supports cost-sharing as a viable cost saving mechanism for financially strapped State programs, and would have a less deleterious effect on Medicaid beneficiaries than poor payment rates to providers, or elimination of services or eligible groups.

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*States with cost sharing do not report significant impacts on utilization of services or access to care.*

*Cost sharing States have not experienced excessive administrative, recipient, or provider burdens.*

*Federal requirements may hinder States from designing even more effective cost sharing programs.*

## RECOMMENDATION

We believe that implementing or expanding cost sharing programs would allow States to (1) reduce program expenditures; (2) maintain or increase eligible populations; (3) maintain or increase covered services; and/or (4) maintain or increase reimbursement rates.

As a result of these conclusions, we make the following recommendation.

*The HCFA should promote the development of effective cost sharing programs by:*

- ▶ allowing States to experiment with cost sharing programs that target new populations and reflect more substantial cost sharing amounts, and/or
- ▶ recommending changes to Federal requirements allowing for greater State flexibility in determining exempted populations and services, and allowing higher recipient cost sharing amounts.

The HCFA might also consider funding evaluation projects which formally assess cost sharing programs and provide information on the most effective structure of such programs.

*The HCFA should promote the use of cost sharing in States that do not currently have programs. The HCFA could choose to exercise its leadership in a number of ways. The HCFA could:*

- ▶ encourage States to implement cost sharing by providing information about State experiences with cost sharing and offering technical assistance and clarification of Federal requirements, or
- ▶ seek legislation to provide States with incentives to implement cost sharing programs, such as decreasing Federal matching to States who do not implement cost sharing, or
- ▶ seek legislation to mandate cost sharing for all States.

## AGENCY COMMENTS

The HCFA and the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget commented on the draft report; the full text of their comments is in Appendix D. Neither agency concurred with our draft recommendation. We have made several changes in response to their suggestions. However, we believe that the available evidence supports cost-sharing as a viable cost saving mechanism for financially strapped State programs, and would have a less deleterious effect on Medicaid beneficiaries than poor payment rates to providers, or elimination of services or eligible groups.

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# INTRODUCTION

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## PURPOSE

To (1) review State Medicaid cost sharing policies and (2) determine their impact on the program.

## BACKGROUND

### *Cost Sharing*

Medicaid is one of the fastest growing programs in Federal and State budgets. Total Medicaid expenditures grew from \$72.1 billion in 1990 to \$94.5 billion in 1991, an increase of 31 percent.

As Medicaid costs continue to rise, Federal and State officials are searching for cost containment measures. One of the fastest growing trends in corporate health care cost containment is greater beneficiary cost sharing. Cost sharing requires beneficiaries to pay a portion of their health care costs. State Medicaid programs have also increasingly been using cost sharing as a cost containment method.

States not currently using cost sharing policies may begin to reexamine the issue since Medicaid now absorbs 14 cents of every State dollar spent. According to Raymond Scheppach, Executive Director of the National Governor's Association, as State budgets rise and "governors are becoming more reluctant to ask for tax increases, States are likely to cut more deeply into spending and perhaps impose new 'user fees' for specific programs."<sup>1</sup>

### *Federal Cost Sharing Legislation and Regulation*

Section 1902(a)(14) of the Social Security Act allows Medicaid to impose "enrollment fees, premiums, or similar charges, and deductions, cost sharing, or similar charges." Medicaid cost sharing legislation has changed since the original 1965 law. The largest change to date occurred under the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (TEFRA).

The TEFRA expanded cost sharing options to allow both the medically and categorically needy to pay nominal fees for almost all services. The legislation precludes providers participating under the State plan from denying service due to an eligible recipient's inability to pay the cost sharing amount. However, the provision does not extinguish the recipient's liability for the amount.

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<sup>1</sup>Jim Luther, "States may be forced to cut spending more despite tax increases," The Baltimore Sun, October 30, 1991, 6A.

Section 1916 of the Social Security Act was added by TEFRA and exempts the following populations and services from cost sharing : children, HMO enrollees who are categorically needy, pregnancy services, emergency services, hospice services, and services provided to residents of nursing facilities or medical institutions. In addition, specific types of cost sharing such as enrollment fees, premiums, or similar charges cannot be imposed upon the categorically needy.

The Medicaid cost sharing payment regulations outlined in 42 CFR Ch. IV sections 447.50-.59 establish minimum and maximum charges for enrollment fees and premiums based on families' gross monthly income. The maximum deductible, coinsurance, or copayment charge for institutional services cannot exceed 50 percent of the Medicaid agency's payment for the first day of service. For non-institutional services:

- deductibles may not exceed \$2 per month per family per period of eligibility;
- coinsurance rates may not exceed 5 percent of the service payment; and
- maximum copayment chargeable to recipient for services is \$.50 to \$3.00, depending on the cost of the service.

#### *Previous Cost Sharing Studies*

The largest study to date on the effects of cost sharing was conducted by the Rand Corporation. The Health Insurance Experiment reviewed health care consumption by insured individuals at randomly assigned levels of cost sharing. Over 7,000 people were assigned coinsurance rates of 0, 25, 50 and 95 percent. The purpose was to determine the potential effects of cost sharing on service utilization and overall health status. The federally-sponsored study ran over several years in the 1970's and early 1980's.

The study found that patients with limited cost sharing used approximately one-third fewer medical services than patients receiving free care. Apart from better blood pressure control and corrected far vision, participants in free care did not have significantly better health outcomes than patients with cost sharing plans.<sup>2</sup>

In a review of California's 1972 cost sharing experiment, most Medi-Cal<sup>3</sup> beneficiaries thought that cost sharing had not affected their health care. However, 17 percent

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<sup>2</sup>Robert H. Brook, Robert H., John E. Ware, Jr., William H. Rogers, Emmet B. Keeler, Allyson R. Davies, Cathy A. Donald, George A. Goldberg, Kathleen N. Lohr, Patricia C. Masthay, and Joseph P. Newhouse, "Does Free Care Improve Adults' Health? Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial," The New England Journal of Medicine Vol. 309 No. 23 (December 8, 1983): 1426-34.

<sup>3</sup>California's Medicaid program is called Medi-Cal.

thought it had reduced the care available to them. These 17 percent were for the most part in households with chronic or significant medical needs.<sup>4</sup>

A more recent study on Medicaid prescription drugs found that New Hampshire's monthly limit on prescriptions caused a 30 percent drop in the number of prescriptions filled. After the limit was rescinded and a \$1.00 copayment was implemented, prescriptions increased to just below pre-limit levels.<sup>5</sup>

For a more inclusive list of cost sharing references see Appendix A.

## METHODOLOGY

### *State Interviews*

We conducted structured telephone interviews with State Medicaid Directors or their representatives. To facilitate data collection, information sheets were sent to all States that had cost sharing programs prior to the interview. We also asked States to provide us with written material on

- the types and amounts of cost sharing,
- reported cost projections and savings, and
- cost sharing program evaluations.

We interviewed officials in 49 States and the District of Columbia. State officials in California declined to be interviewed but did provide us with written material. Whenever possible, we have included California's information in our State statistics.

Although Arizona does not have fee for service reimbursement, it was included in our interviews. Under the Title XIX demonstration project, the Arizona Health Care Cost

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<sup>4</sup>Carl E. Hopkins, Milton I. Roemer, Donald M. Procter, Foline Gartside, James Lubitz, Gerald A. Gardner, and Marc Moser, "Cost-Sharing and Prior Authorization Effects on Medicaid Services in California: Part I. The Beneficiaries' Reactions," Medical Care Vol. XIII No. 7 (July 1975): 582-94.

<sup>5</sup>Stephen B. Soumerai, Jerry Avorn, Dennis Ross-Degnan, and Steven Gortmaker, "Payment Restrictions for Prescription Drugs Under Medicaid: Effects on Therapy, Cost, and Equity," The New England Journal of Medicine Vol. 317 No. 9 (August 27, 1987): 550-56.

Stephen B. Soumerai, Dennis Ross-Degnan, Jerry Avorn, Thomas J. McLaughlin, and Igor Choodnovskiy, "Effects of Medicaid Drug Payment Limits on Admission to Hospitals and Nursing Homes," The New England Journal of Medicine Vol. 325 No. 15 (October 10, 1991): 1072-7.

Containment System provides care through organized health plans and capitated reimbursement. However, Arizona does allow cost sharing by the health plans for a limited number of services. Therefore, we requested information on their experience with cost sharing.

#### *Data Reports and Information Systems*

The information collected from our State interviews was compared with the HCFA's new State Profile Data System (spDATA) for inaccuracies. We found a few discrepancies and informed HCFA's Medicaid Bureau about the differences. The errors were found to lie with the data system and not our State-reported data. They were caused by time lags on newly implemented policies or data input mistakes.

To project cost savings, we used service numbers supplied by States on 1991 Form HCFA-2082. The data is based on service claims paid by State Medicaid agencies in Fiscal Year 1991. See Appendix B for a detailed description of the cost savings projection.

## FINDINGS

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### **TWENTY-SEVEN STATES USE COST SHARING IN THEIR MEDICAID PROGRAMS.**

Twenty-six States cited containing costs or reducing unnecessary utilization as the main reasons for implementing recipient cost sharing in their Medicaid programs. Several States implemented cost sharing to promote an active role for recipients in their health care. One State also mentioned that they use cost sharing to encourage participation in health maintenance organizations (HMO) since HMO enrolled Medicaid recipients are exempt from cost sharing. See Appendix C for a list of States with cost sharing.

States have been using cost sharing for more than two decades. Half (14 of 27) the States have implemented their programs incrementally over the years. Five States established programs in the early to mid 1970's. Most States began programs during the 1980's. Two States implemented cost sharing programs in 1992.

Of the 24 States not currently using cost sharing, almost half are now considering programs. In fact, New York plans to implement cost sharing in the early part of 1993. The main reason States are considering cost sharing is budgetary restraints.

#### *The most frequently used form of cost sharing is copayments.*

All States with cost sharing use copayments as the main mechanism for sharing costs with recipients. Copayments range from 50 cents to \$3.00, with the exception of inpatient hospital copayments which range up to \$50 per admission. Four States also use 2 or 5 percent coinsurance for certain services and one State recently implemented an inpatient hospital deductible of \$100.

No States use enrollment fees or premiums for medically needy individuals as allowed by Federal law. Two States used premiums in the late 1970s but found them cumbersome to administer and discontinued their use. Both States recounted that local offices had difficulty administering the programs since premiums were based on recipient income. Since incomes changed monthly, the premiums had to be recalculated every month resulting in increased staff time and record keeping.

#### *States automatically deduct cost sharing amounts from provider reimbursement.*

All States<sup>6</sup> reduce provider reimbursement for eligible recipients and services regardless of whether the copayment is collected. The majority do not require

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<sup>6</sup>Except Arizona, which takes copayment amounts into account when developing its capitation rates.

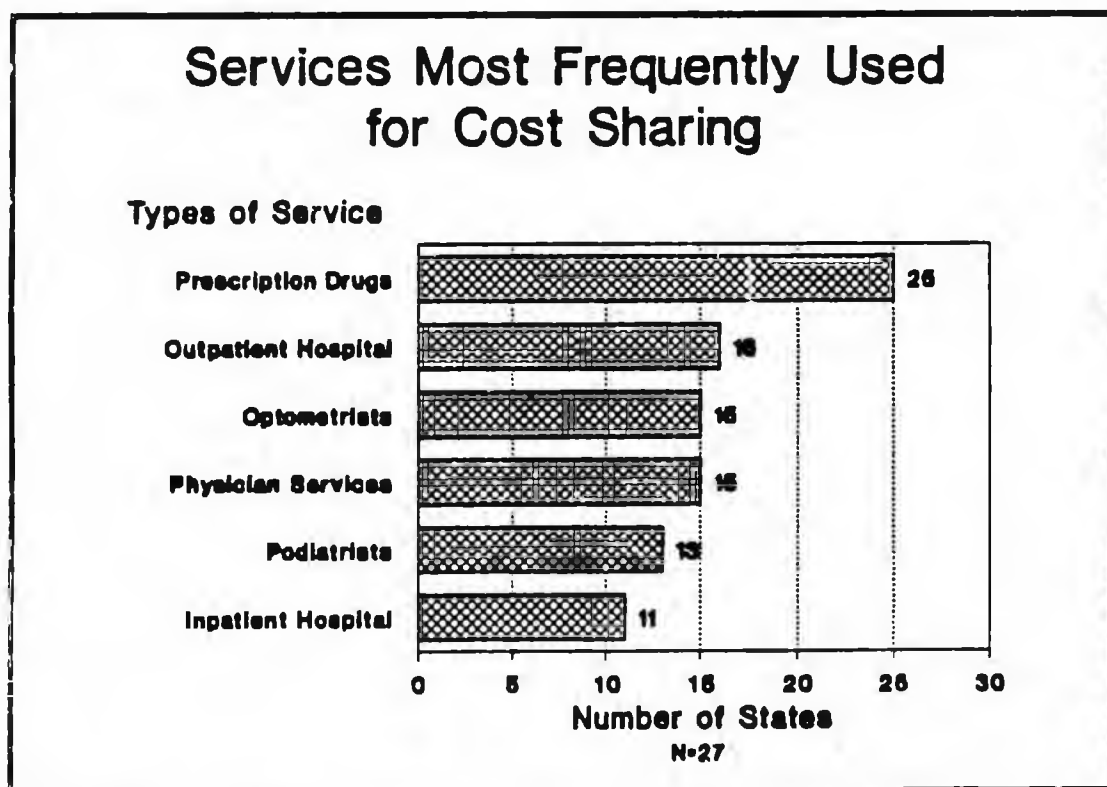
providers to indicate on the claim form whether they have collected or attempted to collect the cost sharing amount.

States use computer edits in their information systems and provider-supplied information to administer cost sharing. Computer edits match information from eligibility files to claim forms for exemptions such as children and nursing home residents. Edits also identify exempted services by diagnostic code, e.g. emergencies. Other States use exemption codes supplied by the provider to indicate emergency, family planning, or pregnancy services.

*States apply cost sharing to both mandatory and optional Medicaid services with prescription drugs being the most frequent cost sharing service.*

States apply cost sharing to a wide array of services. Some States have chosen to apply cost sharing only to mandatory services (States must provide these services as required by law); others apply it only to optional services (States elect whether or not to cover these services).

Most States apply cost sharing to both mandatory and optional services. Almost all States (25 of 27) employ cost sharing on prescription or pharmacy services. The services to which States most often apply cost sharing are shown below. A complete list of cost sharing services by State is presented in Appendix C.



The number of services with cost sharing varies among States. One State (PA) applies cost sharing to all but a few exempted services while five States apply

cost sharing to only one service. Two-thirds of States have more than five services with cost sharing.

States reported a number of rationales for selecting services for cost sharing. The most common was services for which States believed there was unnecessary utilization. Twenty-five percent said they wanted to put cost sharing on all the services allowed by Federal regulation. Several said they specifically chose services where they felt there would not be a negative impact on access. Other States mentioned choosing services where cost sharing would be easier to administer and collect. Finally, three States were given specific service choices from their State legislatures.

### **COST SHARING PROGRAMS SAVE MONEY.**

Twenty-two of the 27 States reported that their programs reduced Medicaid expenditures.<sup>7</sup> Three States which had recently implemented programs had no information yet. One State which had no statistical proof of savings declined to respond.

*Eleven States reported annual cost savings ranging from \$325,000 to \$9.5 million.*

Of the 22 States reporting savings, 11 provided financial data. As shown below, eight States provided statistics from their information systems or outside evaluations and the remaining three were estimated dollars.

The three remaining States provided dollar estimates of \$325,000, \$500,000, and \$2,250,000. These savings were attributed to cost sharing applied to prescription drug services.

| State          | Number of Services | Number of Recipients | Cost Savings |                        |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Colorado       | 9                  | 200,000              | FY 1991      | \$2,168,342            |
| Maine          | 10                 | 147,886              | FY 1992      | \$432,246 <sup>1</sup> |
| Montana        | 26                 | 70,000               | FY 1991      | \$917,412              |
| North Carolina | 9                  | 751,000              | FY 1992      | \$5,518,910            |
| Pennsylvania   | all                | 1,177,161            | FY 1990      | \$9,424,585            |
| South Dakota   | 10                 | 55,000               | FY 1992      | \$708,384              |
| Vermont        | 3                  | 68,622               | FY 1992      | \$906,199              |
| Wisconsin      | 19                 | 416,000              | FY 1988      | \$6,700,000            |

<sup>1</sup> Savings are for prescription drugs only and for the 11 month period 7/91-5/92.

<sup>7</sup>California's written material did not provide us with cost savings information.

Of the eight States that provided actual cost savings, only Wisconsin included \$2.1 million in savings from decreased utilization. The remaining seven States' savings figures represent only reductions in provider reimbursement by the amount of recipient cost sharing.

*States without financial data believe cost sharing saves money.*

The 11 States whose information systems did not collect savings information nevertheless believe their programs have achieved savings. Five States believe savings come from recipient cost sharing dollars and six believe savings come from a combination of cost sharing dollars and reduced utilization.

**STATES WITHOUT COST SHARING COULD SAVE BETWEEN \$167 AND \$335 MILLION ANNUALLY BY APPLYING COST SHARING TO FOUR SERVICES.**

Potential savings for 24 States without cost sharing depends on the number of eligible beneficiaries and services to which cost sharing is applied. However, we estimate that cost sharing on four services in these States could save the Medicaid program between \$167 and \$335 million a year. The Federal share could range from \$99 to \$198 million and the States could save between \$68 to \$137 million.

These savings are due to reductions in provider reimbursement alone and do not include savings from possible utilization changes. The savings would be even greater if States implemented cost sharing on more than just these four services.

This estimate includes four services -- prescription drugs, physician visits, inpatient hospital stays, and outpatient hospital visits. These services were selected because information on their use by recipients was available from State HCFA-2082 reports for 1991.

The number of services provided by each State without cost sharing was multiplied by the most frequently used copayment amount by States with cost sharing. The cost savings projection includes savings only from reductions in service reimbursement by the amount of recipient cost sharing and not reductions in service utilization.

The high estimate of \$335 million is not reduced by the number of services that would be exempt according to Federal regulations. The \$167 million estimate excludes these exempted services. See Appendix B for a more detailed description of the cost sharing projection.

**STATES WITH COST SHARING DO NOT REPORT SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS ON UTILIZATION OF SERVICES OR ACCESS TO CARE.**

Although 15 States cited reducing inappropriate utilization as one of the reasons for implementing cost sharing, States have not experienced significant reductions in the use of services after implementation of cost sharing.

*Only three States have formally evaluated their cost sharing programs. Their results have differed, but in no case did they find a strong relationship between the implementation of cost sharing and significant reductions in the use of services.*

The three States that have conducted formal evaluation are Wisconsin, California, and Montana.

Wisconsin's Office of Policy and Budget reviewed the State's cost sharing program in 1989.<sup>8</sup> Wisconsin looked at utilization information for cost sharing services implemented over several years. For a group of copayments implemented in 1981, they found a 1.5 percent decrease in utilization for services that were not greatly affected by other program changes (chiropractic, medical equipment and supplies, and transportation). For copayments instituted or increased in 1988, Wisconsin found a 1.5 percent drop in utilization for physician services and no decrease in outpatient hospital services. The Wisconsin report cautions that

The utilization effect statistic must be interpreted with caution since factors other than copayments may account for this change, e.g., changes in provider participation. Probably the way to interpret the 1.5 utilization percentage is as the maximum that might be due to copayments.

In 1985, under contract with HCFA, California evaluated the Medi-Cal copayment demonstration project.<sup>9</sup> The evaluation found no significant changes in utilization for physician office visits, emergency room visits, physical therapy, chiropractic services, and optometry after copayments were implemented.

Montana's evaluation found that after copayments were implemented for 19 services, recipient usage increased for all services except 3 -- inpatient hospital, dental, and prescription drugs.<sup>10</sup> The reported decreases for inpatient hospital and dental services could not be attributed solely to copayment since there had also been changes in reimbursement methodologies and coverage. However, the 15 percent decrease in utilization from 3.17 prescriptions to 2.68 prescriptions per recipient may have been attributable to copayments.

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<sup>8</sup>Timothy Tyson, The Impact of Copayments on Medical Assistance Recipients: A Report to the Legislature (Wisconsin: Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Policy and Budget, Evaluation Section, June 1989).

<sup>9</sup>D. Jerome Hansen, James C. Cicconetti, Terri Stackpole, and John Keith, California Statewide Copayment Project (California: California Department of Health Services, July 1985), HCFA Contract No. 11-P-98206/9-03.

<sup>10</sup>KPMG Peat Marwick, State of Montana, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services: Review of the Copayment Program, (November 1990).

*Almost half of the States without statistical evaluations reported no significant decreases in cost sharing services. None of the remaining States had recent information on utilization changes attributable to cost sharing.*

Eleven of the 24 States without evaluation data reported no significant decreases in utilization attributable to cost sharing. These responses were based on overall utilization comparisons from year to year. Three States had just begun their cost sharing programs and therefore did not have any information.

Of the remaining States, seven did not know of any changes because they did not collect utilization impact data. Two States had no recent impact data but had written material from over 10 years back showing decreases in utilization the year after copayment implementation. One other State had a lowering in utilization numbers but felt they couldn't attribute this to cost sharing.

Cost sharing programs are often implemented with other cost containment, reimbursement, and eligibility changes. This makes assigning utilization impact to cost sharing almost impossible. In fact, 17 States implemented other program changes at the same time as cost sharing.

*Most States do not believe cost sharing prevents recipients access to needed services.*

Eighty percent of States (22 of 27) did not believe recipient access to necessary care was limited by cost sharing. According to respondents, the Federal requirement that providers must furnish service when the recipient is unable to pay precludes limiting access and the nominal cost sharing amounts do not put undue burdens on people requiring essential care.

Twenty percent reported that they could not say absolutely that cost sharing never interferes with access to necessary services. Two States suggested that while providers were not limiting access to care, some recipients might forego services because they aren't aware that they must be served even if they are unable to pay at the time the service is provided. However, one State also mentioned that they were hesitant to make the policy clear to recipients for fear that recipients would always say they couldn't pay.

*State evaluations confirm the information collected from the States concerning recipients' access to services under cost sharing.*

All three State evaluations conclude that cost sharing has not limited recipients' access to necessary services. Montana's evaluation also included a provider survey indicating that cost sharing had not influenced their acceptance of Medicaid patients.

Wisconsin's evaluation further reviewed access to care by including a recipient survey. Eleven of 151 respondents indicated that they had sought fewer services because they could not afford the copayment. The study also presented evidence showing that les

than 2 percent of the calls to the Medicaid recipient hotline were about copayments in the 2 months preceding and the 4 months following copayment implementation. Most of these calls (95 percent) were questions and clarifications about cost sharing while 5 percent were complaints.

### **COST SHARING STATES HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED EXCESSIVE ADMINISTRATIVE, RECIPIENT, OR PROVIDER BURDENS.**

Overall, States with cost sharing indicated they had few problems with implementation. Over 45 percent of States said they had no implementation problems. Other States mentioned working out concerns with advocacy groups and provider associations. Four States have had court cases brought against them by patient advocacy groups. All of these States have since implemented cost sharing.

Interestingly, more than half the States (15 of 24) without cost sharing believed it would be a financial burden for them to administer. They also felt cost sharing would impose too great a financial burden on recipients and providers.

*The administrative expense is basically a one-time minimal cost for information system changes and information dissemination.*

Five States furnished dollar estimates ranging from \$2,000 to \$100,000 for the information system changes. Two States estimated their staff time for rule-making and information dissemination at \$15,000 and \$30,000 respectively. The remaining States either could not break out the cost of their cost sharing program or estimated the cost to be "minimal" or "negligible."

New York, which is attempting to implement cost sharing, reported implementation cost of \$1.5 million. Approximately \$1 million was for client notification and \$500,000 for information system changes including department and contractor costs.

The higher implementation costs are due to the large size of New York's program and the number of notices sent out due to court challenges and delays. However, if New York's initial cost savings projections are correct, New York should recover its expenditure in 1 month's time.

*Some States reduce burden on recipients by expanding exemptions and capping cost sharing amounts.*

Fifteen States have expanded the age of exempted children beyond the Federal requirement of 18 and under. Twelve States have expanded the age to 21, two increased to age 19, and one to age 20.

Fifteen States have expanded the pregnancy-related service exemption to include all pregnant women. Some States did this to alleviate administrative confusion, so that providers can exempt any woman who is pregnant. Otherwise, States require

providers to indicate that the service is pregnancy related, e.g., providers must write "related to pregnancy" on the prescription.

At least 12 States also exclude services to severely or chronically ill individuals. These include dialysis services, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, oxygen equipment, and home and community based services.

Five States have also tried to ensure that recipients are not overburdened by large cost sharing amounts by establishing caps on specific services or total cost sharing amounts.

- Colorado has a cost sharing cap of \$150 per year.
- Maine established monthly caps for each cost sharing service that range from \$4 to \$30 per month.
- Montana allows cost sharing up to \$127 per year for families. It also limits the cost sharing for inpatient hospital stays to \$66 per admission.
- Pennsylvania caps copayments at \$90 for a 6-month period. Inpatient hospital copayments may not exceed \$21 per admission.
- Wisconsin caps inpatient hospital services, physician visits, and sole-provider pharmacy services at various dollar limits per year. Cost sharing for physical/occupational/speech therapy and psychotherapy ends after so many hours or dollars of service provided.

All States, except Pennsylvania, stop reducing provider payments when the dollar amount is reached. Pennsylvania rebates the amount paid over the limit to the recipient every 6 months.

Overall, among the 17 States that could estimate the number of recipients exempt from cost sharing, 9 States exempted between 40 and 50 percent and 8 exempted over 50 percent.

*Provider responses to cost sharing are mixed. However, provider participation in Medicaid has not dropped due to cost sharing.*

Over half the States reported little or no negative response from physicians when they implemented cost sharing. Several of these States said providers were used to cost sharing since it is a component of most third party health insurance.

Other States reported mixed responses, especially among different provider groups. Several States said specific provider groups in their State actually supported cost sharing by Medicaid recipients. Four States said provider groups were extremely opposed to cost sharing in the Medicaid program.

Provider complaints focused mainly on the administrative hassle attached to collecting cost sharing payments from recipients. Providers explain that if the amount is not collected at the time of service, the cost of billing for the amount exceeds the amount billed. Complaints were also received that providers looked at this as reducing reimbursement levels that they already consider too low.

Almost 90 percent of States (21 of 24) did not monitor collection of copayments by providers. Therefore, States don't know if recipients are making the payments. However, about one-third of the States believed that there are instances when cost sharing amounts are not being paid by recipient or collection is not being attempted by providers.

Although there is little State collected data on the impact of cost sharing on providers, provider surveys supply additional insight into the impact of cost sharing on physicians and their actions. The three State evaluations highlighted the following:

- Approximately 50 percent of all copayments went uncollected.
- Providers with high percentages of Medicaid patients were more likely to charge copayments.
- Providers felt the nominal nature of cost sharing amounts were not worth the billing or collection effort.
- Certain providers such as pharmacists more frequently collect cost sharing payments.

All except two States report no decreases in Medicaid provider participation after implementing cost sharing. One State has lost several podiatrists and they believe this might be due to a combination of copayments and declining reimbursement. Another State reported discontinuing a physician visit copayment after physicians threatened to drop out of the program. However, this same State characterized the pharmacy providers as being positive about the cost sharing program.

#### **FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS MAY HINDER STATES FROM DESIGNING EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE COST SHARING PROGRAMS.**

More than 40 percent of States with cost sharing voiced concerns about Federal cost sharing requirements. Seventy percent of these States felt that flexible Federal requirements would allow States to increase the effectiveness of their cost sharing programs. Several States also reported difficulty in preparing guidelines that allowed for effective cost sharing while maintaining compliance with Federal requirements.

*States report that the Federal exemptions are too broad and the cost sharing amounts too nominal for certain services or eligible recipients.*

Ten States with cost sharing responded that they would like to design more effective cost sharing programs. These States would increase cost sharing amounts or create exemptions targeted at specific vulnerable populations or services instead of broad exemption categories.

For example, States said they would increase coinsurance and copayment rates, include HMO enrollees in cost sharing, and waive certain exclusions for populations above a certain percentage of the poverty level. States speculated that this increased cost sharing would assist them in expanding eligibility to people not currently being served by their State's program.

States without cost sharing also indicated that Federal cost sharing regulations are a deterrent. Six States reported not implementing cost sharing because of restrictive Federal requirements.

*States say defining a recipient's inability to pay cost sharing amounts is difficult.*

Several States had difficulty in supplying guidelines to providers defining what constitutes a recipient's inability to pay for services. This is important since Federal law requires service to be provided even when a recipient is unable to pay the cost sharing amount at the time it is provided.

Most States do not have policies for handling recipients who are eligible for cost sharing but habitually do not pay. These States tell providers that verbal confirmation of inability to pay from recipients is proof of inability to pay. Only three States have outlined policies for their providers.

- Michigan's provider manual states that if the recipient fails to pay a copayment, the provider can, in the future, refuse to serve that recipient as a Medicaid patient.
- Pennsylvania advocates that providers cannot deny services because of recipient's inability to pay, unless there is "credible evidence" that the recipient is able to pay, but refuses to do so. The policy states that a recipient found making purchases of non-essential items is an example of credible evidence and requires the provider to document this in the record.
- Wyoming's guidance to providers states that since Medicaid copayment amounts are nominal, if a recipient regularly fails to pay the required copayment a provider may exclude the recipient from their practice.

The majority of States have not defined the difference between unwillingness to pay and inability to pay. States just refer providers to the Federal law stating that they cannot deny service but that the uncollected amount is considered a debt to providers.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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The information in this report demonstrates that many States have developed cost sharing programs that reduce Medicaid expenditures. States have suggested that cost sharing allows Medicaid recipients to be a partner in their health care determinations. It also allows Medicaid recipients to become accustomed to an element common in private health insurance. States with cost sharing reported no evidence that cost sharing has a negative impact on recipients.

We believe that implementing or expanding cost sharing programs would allow States to:

- ▶ reduce program expenditures;
- ▶ maintain or increase eligible populations;
- ▶ maintain or increase covered services; and/or
- ▶ maintain or increase reimbursement rates.

As a result of these conclusions, we make the following recommendations.

*The HCFA should promote the development of effective cost sharing programs by:*

- ▶ allowing States to experiment with cost sharing programs that target new populations and reflect more substantial cost sharing amounts, and/or
- ▶ recommending changes to Federal requirements allowing for greater State flexibility in determining exempted populations and services, and allowing higher recipient cost sharing amounts.

The HCFA might also consider funding evaluation projects which formally assess cost sharing programs and provide information on the most effective structure of such programs.

*The HCFA should promote the use of cost sharing in States that do not currently have programs. The HCFA could choose to exercise its leadership in a number of ways. The HCFA could:*

- ▶ encourage States to implement cost sharing by providing information about State experiences with cost sharing and offering technical assistance and clarification of Federal requirements, or

*The Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget Comments*

The Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget believed that the sample size and data were insufficient to support the findings and that additional sample data needed to be collected before conclusions could be drawn on the effectiveness of cost sharing programs.

While we agree that only three States have formally evaluated their programs, testimonial evidence from 24 additional States confirms the evaluations' findings. We believe that taken together, this information provides strong enough evidence to support our findings. Certainly, we agree that additional research on cost sharing would be helpful; as a result, we have revised our recommendation to include the suggestion that HCFA direct some of its evaluation resources towards this end. In the meantime, however, we believe that the available evidence supports cost-sharing as a viable cost saving mechanism for financially strapped State programs, and would have a less deleterious effect on Medicaid beneficiaries than poor payment rates to providers, or elimination of services or eligible groups.

- ▶ seek legislation to provide States with incentives to implement cost sharing programs, such as decreasing Federal matching to States who do not implement cost sharing, or
- ▶ seek legislation to mandate cost sharing for all States.

## **AGENCY COMMENTS**

The HCFA and the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget commented on the draft report. The full text of their comments is in Appendix D.

### *The Health Care Financing Administration Comments*

The HCFA did not concur with our draft recommendation that the agency promote effective cost sharing in the States. The HCFA cited their desire to have cost sharing remain a voluntary State option. This desire is not inconsistent with our draft recommendation or our revised recommendations which appear in this final report. While mandating cost sharing is one approach that HCFA may choose to consider as a way to promote cost sharing, both in our draft report and in this final report we list other approaches which HCFA could use as well to accomplish this goal.

The HCFA agreed that there is sufficient evidence to show that cost sharing saves money for the Medicaid program. However, HCFA expressed concerns regarding the impact that cost sharing has on Medicaid recipients and providers of care.

We agree that the literature shows that certain vulnerable populations such as children, people with disabilities, and the chronically ill may be more adversely affected by cost sharing. And in this report, we outline some of the policies that States with cost sharing have implemented to protect these populations. These policies include capping cost sharing amounts, excluding certain services from cost sharing, and exempting children up to 21 years of age.

We also agree that cost sharing must be reviewed for its impact on providers. Although we found that cost sharing had not caused providers to leave the Medicaid program, we recognize that States with low provider participation must be concerned about recipients' access to providers.

In response to these concerns, we have decided to create two recommendations. The first addresses effectiveness of cost sharing programs and the second addresses the promotion of cost sharing in the Medicaid program. We believe that some of HCFA's concerns could be alleviated by allowing States to experiment with cost sharing programs. More flexibility would enable States to determine the needs of their individual program and populations and then develop a cost sharing program that fits those needs. States, for example, could choose to exempt specific vulnerable populations from cost sharing while targeting other populations like HMO enrollees for cost sharing.

*The Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget Comments*

The Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget believed that the sample size and data were insufficient to support the findings and that additional sample data needed to be collected before conclusions could be drawn on the effectiveness of cost sharing programs.

While we agree that only three States have formally evaluated their programs, testimonial evidence from 24 additional States confirms the evaluations' findings. We believe that taken together, this information provides strong enough evidence to support our findings. Certainly, we agree that additional research on cost sharing would be helpful; as a result, we have revised our recommendation to include the suggestion that HCFA direct some of its evaluation resources towards this end. In the meantime, however, we believe that the available evidence supports cost-sharing as a viable cost saving mechanism for financially strapped State programs, and would have a less deleterious effect on Medicaid beneficiaries than poor payment rates to providers, or elimination of services or eligible groups.

# APPENDIX A

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