
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State does not
2 automatically enroll federal supplemental security income (SSI)
3 program participants into the State's medicaid program. The
4 federal SSI program is an important program that provides
5 monthly payments to people who have little or no income or
6 resources and who have a disability or are an older adult, and
7 financial eligibility is based on national criteria. However,
8 the medicaid program, which provides health insurance to low-
9 income individuals, is administered at the state level,
10 resulting in varying medicaid eligibility policies across
11 different states.

12 The legislature further finds that thirty-three states and
13 Washington, D.C. automatically enroll federal SSI recipients
14 into medicaid based on notification from the Social Security
15 Administration. In fact, section 1634 of the Social Security
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(c)) authorizes states to enter into
17 automatic enrollment agreements with the Social Security



1 Administration. However, Hawai'i residents who participate in
2 the federal SSI program must complete a separate application for
3 medicaid and wait for the application to be processed.

4 According to research reported in the Social Security
5 Bulletin, requiring a separate application for medicaid may
6 limit enrollment due to the additional burden of completing the
7 application. Medicaid participation in states without automatic
8 enrollment is significantly lower than in states that
9 automatically enroll federal SSI program participants into their
10 state medicaid programs.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require the State to
12 automatically enroll federal supplemental security income
13 program participants in the State's medicaid program.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:

17 "§346- Enrollment of federal supplemental security
18 income program participants in medicaid. The department shall
19 automatically enroll, or authorize the Social Security
20 Administration to automatically enroll, in the State's medicaid
21 program any individual in the State who receives federal



1 supplemental security income benefits. The enrollment shall be
2 within thirty days of receipt of notification of the
3 individual's eligibility for federal supplemental security
4 income benefits from the Social Security Administration. The
5 department shall not require federal supplemental security
6 income program participants to submit an additional application
7 or fulfill additional criteria in order to enroll in medicaid."

8 SECTION 3. The department of human services shall submit a
9 report on its progress made to implement this Act to the
10 legislature no later than forty days prior to the convening of
11 the regular sessions of 2026 and 2027.

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Lina Proter

JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 646

Report Title:

DHS; Supplemental Security Income Program; Medicaid; Automatic Enrollment; Reports

Description:

Requires the Department of Human Services to automatically enroll, or authorize the Social Security Administration to automatically enroll, in the State's Medicaid program any individual in the State who receives federal Supplemental Security Income benefits. Requires reports to the Legislature.

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