

ACT 24

H.B. NO. 311

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Nursing Facility Sustainability Program.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the nursing facility sustainability program was established in 2012 and has served a critical role in strengthening the long-term care system in Hawaii. In the nine years since its inception, the nursing facility sustainability program has helped long-term care facilities treat the most vulnerable patients in the State, especially low-income individuals who require these services. The program has been carried out via a public-private partnership to ensure that patients in Hawaii can access quality, affordable care.

The legislature further finds that, even with this program, nursing facilities in the State face major challenges. These challenges are due in part to the health and financial pressures related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Medicaid is jointly financed by the federal and state governments by statutory formula; the federal government pays between fifty per cent and seventy-four per cent, with assistance levels determined by each state's per capita income. States with the lowest per capita income receive higher federal matching rates. Under federal rules, the state share must be public funds that are not

federal funds. The legislature notes that public funding to help sustain Hawaii's nursing facilities financially may be accessed through a provider fee.

The legislature also finds that provider fees exist in forty-nine states and the District of Columbia as a means of drawing down federal funds to sustain their medicaid programs due to rising state budget deficits, increasing health care costs, and expanding medicaid enrollment. Provider fees, which are collected from specific categories of health care providers, may be imposed on different classes of health care services, including inpatient and outpatient hospital and nursing facility services.

The legislature therefore finds that, in Hawaii, a provider fee on nursing facilities can result in a substantial increase in medicaid payments, without putting additional constraints on the State's budget. The additional federal funds obtained via the fee program authorized by the nursing facility sustainability program can maintain access to care for medicaid recipients, which will allow nursing facilities in the State to continue to serve under-insured or uninsured patients in a timely, effective manner and help ensure the overall sustainability of the health care system in the State during the challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of this Act is to preserve access to health care for medicaid recipients by extending the nursing facility sustainability fee program.

SECTION 2. Section 346F-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) Revenue from the nursing facility sustainability fee shall be used exclusively as follows:

- (1) No less than eighty-eight per cent of the revenue from the nursing facility sustainability fee shall be used for one or more of the following:
 - (A) To match federal medicaid funds, with the combined total to be used to enhance capitated rates to medicaid managed care health plans for the purpose of increasing medicaid payments to private nursing facilities to support the availability of services and ensure access to care for the medicaid managed care health plan enrollees; or
 - (B) To match federal medicaid funds, with the combined total to enhance capitated rates for the purpose of paying quality incentives;
- (2) Twelve per cent of the revenue from the nursing facility sustainability fee may be used by the department for other departmental purposes; and
- (3) All moneys remaining in the special fund on ~~[December 30, 2021,]~~ June 30, 2024, shall be distributed to nursing facilities within thirty days in the same proportions as received from the nursing facilities.”

SECTION 3. Section 346F-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) The nursing facility sustainability fee shall not exceed 5.5 per cent of overall net patient service revenue and shall be calculated and paid on a per resident day basis, unless the facility qualifies for an exemption identified in subsection (d)(1). The ~~[per resident daily fee shall not exceed \$20.00 for each affected facility, except for]~~ facilities described in subsection (d)(2)~~], which instead~~ shall pay a ~~[per resident]~~ reduced daily fee ~~[not to exceed \$9.00.]~~ compared to other facilities participating in the program.”

SECTION 4. Section 346F-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) The department shall collect and each nursing facility shall pay in twelve equal installments the nursing facility sustainability fee in section 346F-5 on a monthly basis, subject to the terms of this section. The fee shall be due within ~~thirty~~ sixty days after the end of each month, with the initial payment due on the later of July 31, 2012, or forty-five days after the required federal approvals for the assessment and any increase in health plan capitation payments have been secured from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.”

SECTION 5. Section 346F-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§346F-10 Enhanced rates to medicaid managed care health plans. In accordance with title 42 Code of Federal Regulations part 438, the department shall use revenues from the nursing facility sustainability fee and federal matching funds to enhance the capitated rates paid to medicaid managed care health plans for ~~[state fiscal years 2019–2020 and 2020–2021,]~~ the period of July 1 through December 31, 2021, and calendar years 2022 and 2023, consistent with the following objectives:

- (1) The rate enhancement shall be used exclusively for increasing reimbursements to private nursing facilities to support the availability of services and to ensure access to care to the medicaid managed care health plan enrollees;
- (2) The rate enhancement shall be made part of the monthly capitated rates by the department to medicaid managed care health plans, which shall provide documentation to the department and the nursing facility trade association located in Hawaii certifying that the revenues received under paragraph (1) are used in accordance with this section;
- (3) The rate enhancement shall be actuarially sound and approved by the federal government for federal fund participation;
- (4) The department shall modify the fee-for-service reimbursement rates of the nursing facilities to recognize the medicaid portion of the nursing facility sustainability fee as an additional cost of serving medicaid patients, and to provide a uniform percentage increase in preexisting facility-specific rates; and
- (5) Payments made by the medicaid managed care health plans shall be made within thirty calendar days upon receipt of monthly capitation rates from the department.”

SECTION 6. Section 346F-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) Collection of the nursing facility sustainability fee under section 346F-5 shall be discontinued if:

- (1) The waiver in section 346F-7 or the enhanced capitation rates in section 346F-10 have not been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;
- (2) The department reduces funding for nursing facility services below the state appropriation in effect on June 30, ~~[2020;]~~ 2021;
- (3) The department or any other state agency uses the money in the special fund for any use other than the uses permitted pursuant to this chapter; or

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- (4) Federal financial participation to match the nursing facility sustainability fee becomes unavailable under federal law. In such case, the department shall terminate the collection of the fee beginning on the effective date of the federal statutory, regulatory, or interpretive change.”

SECTION 7. Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, as amended by section 3 of Act 142, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, as amended by section 2 of Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, as amended by section 2 of Act 69, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, as amended by section 2 of Act 59, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, as amended by section 5 of Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, as amended by section 6 of Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, is amended by amending section 5 to read as follows:

“SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012, and shall be repealed on ~~[June 30, 2021;]~~ December 31, 2023; provided that section -4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, established by section 2 of this Act, and the amendment made to section 36-30(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, in section 3 of this Act, shall be repealed on ~~[December 31, 2021;]~~ June 30, 2024.”

SECTION 8. Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, as amended by section 3 of Act 69, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, as amended by section 3 of Act 59, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, as amended by section 6 of Act 60, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, as amended by section 7 of Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, is amended by amending section 7 to read as follows:

“SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2014; provided that:

- (1) Section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2014; and
- (2) The amendments made to ~~[section]~~ sections 36-27(a) and 36-30(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, in sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall be repealed on ~~[December 31, 2021;]~~ June 30, 2024.”

SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the nursing facility sustainability program special fund the sum of \$20,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for uses consistent with section 346F-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of human services for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 10. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect on June 29, 2021; provided that sections 8 and 9 of the Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

(Approved May 28, 2021.)