

Medicaid Suspension for County Inmates

SB 54 by Sen. Cam Ward

During the 2016 Regular Session, Senator Ward passed legislation to alter the Medicaid eligibility of persons in the custody of the Department of Corrections. Alabama law now allows those individuals' Medicaid eligibility to be suspended, but not terminated, so long as the individual is otherwise eligible for Medicaid benefits. This provision also allows for the temporary reinstatement of Medicaid eligibility for care received if the individual is an inpatient in a medical institution for more than 24 hours.

This bill provides that a Medicaid-eligible county inmate or juvenile would likewise have his or her eligibility for Medicaid suspended, rather than terminated. In the event he or she receives inpatient care for more than 24 hours while in the county jail, his or her Medicaid eligibility would be temporarily reinstated.

This bill also requires the governmental entity that is financially responsible for the Medicaid-eligible county inmate or juvenile to reimburse the Medicaid Agency for the full amount of any federally-required state match for the provided medical services. Additionally, the Medicaid Agency and the Association of County Commissions of Alabama are charged with developing a centralized process for disseminating necessary information between the Medicaid Agency and each county.

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