

SENATE BILL NO. 522

INTRODUCED BY C. POPE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MEDICAID LAWS TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE WAITING LISTS FOR COVERED SERVICES; REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT INITIATIVES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE WAITING LISTS; PRIORITIZING THE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF WAITING LISTS FOR CERTAIN SERVICES; ESTABLISHING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; AND PROVIDING A DEFINITION."

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Eliminate or reduce waiting lists for covered services. (1) The department shall implement administrative, programmatic, and funding initiatives to reduce or eliminate waiting lists for services covered under the Montana medicaid program.

(2) Initiatives may include:

(a) applying for medicaid waivers, amendments to existing medicaid waivers, or state plan amendments;

(b) recalculating reimbursement rates;

(c) providing add-on rates for services with waiting lists; and

(d) any additional initiatives that comply with federal policy.

(3) The department shall prioritize the reduction or elimination of waiting lists for the following types of services:

(a) senior and long-term care;

(b) behavioral health;

(c) dental services;

(d) family education and support services; and

(e) home-based and community-based services provided through the developmental disabilities program's 0208 medicaid waiver.

- 1 (4) The department shall provide an annual report to the legislature, in accordance with 5-11-210,
2 detailing:
- 3 (a) each waiting list for a covered service, including the number of people on the waiting list each
4 month;
- 5 (b) efforts underway by the department to reduce or eliminate the waiting list; and
- 6 (c) the date the department expects the waiting list to be eliminated.
- 7 (5) For the purposes of this section, "waiting list" means a list of persons enrolled or presumptively
8 enrolled in the Montana medicaid program who are eligible for a service but cannot receive that service in 90 or
9 fewer days due to a lack of funding, available providers, enrollment slots, or other service supply issues.

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
12 integral part of Title 53, chapter 6, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 6, apply to [section 1].

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