

**Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Mike Yakawich - (S) Public Health, Welfare and Safety**

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Chanan Brown,

SB0072.001.001

SENATE BILL NO. 72

INTRODUCED BY M. YAKAWICH

BY REQUEST OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE MONTANA MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND PERSONS WHO ARE ELDERLY; PROVIDING A SCREENING PROCESS FOR PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY; ~~AND~~ STATING TERMS OF PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY; AND PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Presumptive eligibility for persons with physical disabilities or elderly persons.** (1) (a) Presumptive eligibility under the Montana medicaid program for certain home and community-based services may be granted to a person who has a physical disability or who is elderly upon completion of the following:

(i) the screening process described in this section; and  
(ii) authorization by the division of the department that administers long-term care services for senior citizens and individuals with physical disabilities.

(b) Home and community-based services covered under the presumptive eligibility determination as provided for in this section include ~~the following:~~

- ~~(i) — personal care services;~~
- ~~(ii) — meal delivery;~~
- ~~(iii) — personal emergency response systems;~~
- ~~(iv) — medical equipment and supplies;~~
- ~~(v) — assistive or adaptive technology; and~~

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(vi) ~~other services necessary to successfully transition a patient from a hospital to the community or stabilize a patient within the community to prevent hospitalization.~~ home and community-based services provided under the department's big sky waiver program and community first choice amendment program that are necessary to prevent institutionalization or necessary to successfully transition a patient from a hospital or other institutional setting.

(2) (a) The screening process may be conducted by staff of:

(i) the division of the department that administers long-term care services for senior citizens and individuals with physical disabilities; or

(ii) one of the following facilities who have received training and certification from the department to make presumptive eligibility determinations:

(A) an area agency on aging or its designated subcontractor;

(B) a tribal entity;

(C) a hospital or hospital-affiliated facility; or

(D) another entity deemed appropriate by the department or the division of the department that administers long-term care services for senior citizens and individuals with physical disabilities.

(b) Initial training of staff must be completed before an entity is certified to complete presumptive eligibility determinations, and the certification must be renewed annually.

(3) The screening process must include:

(a) an application as prescribed by the department;

(b) self-attestation that the applicant meets the income, resource, and residency requirements of the Montana medicaid program as prescribed in 53-6-131; and

(c) a functional assessment to establish an in-home and community care plan.

(4) The applicant or the applicant's representative shall submit an application for ongoing coverage under the Montana medicaid program as provided in 53-6-131 within ~~10~~ 30 calendar days following the applicant's presumptive eligibility determination.

(5) The presumptive eligibility period begins on the date the screening is completed and ends on the date a determination of ongoing Montana medicaid program eligibility is made or at the end of the month

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1 following the month of the presumptive eligibility determination, whichever is earlier.

2 (6) A person may receive services under a presumptive eligibility determination only once within a  
3 consecutive 12-month period.

4 (7) The applicant does not have a right to an administrative hearing on presumptive eligibility.

5 (8) The department may provide time extensions for the application process and service periods  
6 specified in subsections (4) and (5) and provide exceptions to the limit on an individual's ability to qualify for  
7 services through presumptive eligibility determinations specified in subsection (6) when the department  
8 determines that the extensions or exceptions further the goal of avoiding preventable health declines,  
9 institutional placements, or hospitalizations.

10 (9) The department shall submit to the centers for medicare and medicaid services the appropriate  
11 section 1115 waiver application, section 1115 waiver amendment, section 1915(k) state plan amendment, or  
12 other state plan amendment to implement the presumptive eligibility program described in this section.

13  
14 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a  
15 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

16  
17 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
18 integral part of Title 53, chapter 6, part 4, and the provisions of Title 53, chapter 6, part 4, apply to [section 1].

19 - END -