

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: MA Eligibility for Employed Persons with Disabilities

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Overview

This bill expands Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility for employed persons with disabilities, by raising the asset limit, removing the income limit, and disregarding spousal income and assets. The bill requires certain individuals to pay premiums in order to receive MA.

1 Employed persons with disabilities. Amends § 256B.057, by adding subd. 9.

(a) Provides MA coverage for persons who: (1) are employed; (2) would be eligible for the Supplemental Security Income program, except for income and assets; (3) have assets not exceeding \$20,000, after specified exclusions; and (4) pay the required premium. Requires spousal income and assets to be disregarded for purposes of eligibility and premium determinations.

(b) Requires persons with incomes equal to or greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines to pay a premium, equal to ten percent of income above this income standard up to the cost of coverage.

(c) Requires local county agencies to determine eligibility and premiums. Requires premiums to be paid to the commissioner.

(d) Requires premiums to be determined at application and redetermined annually or when there is a change in income.

(e) States that the first premium payment is due upon notification from the commissioner, and allows the commissioner to determine whether premiums can be paid in installments.

(f) Requires denial or termination of MA in cases of failure to pay premiums, unless there is good cause. States that nonpayment includes payment with a dishonored instrument, and allows the commissioner to demand a guaranteed form of payment if this occurs.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates \$41,000 in FY 2000 and \$170,000 in FY 2001 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to implement section 1.

