

Regular Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL NO. 565

BY REPRESENTATIVES DURAND, DORSEY, ALARIO, HAMMETT, AND SALTER  
AND SENATORS MOUNT, HEITMEIER, AND BAJOE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MEDICAID: Provides for the Medicaid program to develop a program to expand coverage to certain low-income uninsured through a Medicaid waiver

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:978 and 979(A), relative to health care coverage for the  
3 uninsured; to provide the authority for expanding coverage to certain low-income  
4 uninsured through Medicaid waivers; to provide with respect to certain elements of  
5 the waiver; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 46:978 and 979(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
8 follows:

9 §978. Health care for the low-income uninsured

10 In accordance with the authority granted the Department of Health and  
11 Hospitals pursuant to R.S. 36:254(A)(6)(a) and upon the granting of a research and  
12 demonstration waiver provided for under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act,  
13 the department shall avail itself of the opportunity to decrease the number of low-  
14 income uninsured in Louisiana, through a Health Insurance Flexibility and  
15 Accountability or other Section 1115 demonstration initiative.

16 §979. Department responsibility

17 A. The department shall apply to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid  
18 Services, Department of Health and Human Services, for authority and funding to  
19 implement a Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability demonstration



Proposed law provides that an application to DHHS for a Section 1115 of the Social Security Act waiver demonstration initiative is not limited to HIFA waiver provisions.

Proposed law provides for an initiative for uninsured persons in families earning below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Proposed law provides for placing all of the state's disproportionate share payment allotment into a pool which would provide the flexibility to support hospitals, to expand availability of primary and preventive care, to provide health insurance coverage to the uninsured, and to meet the state's disease management goals.

Proposed law provides that, subject to appropriation, the priority for use of the funding pool shall be to provide for federal disproportionate share payments to the public state-operated hospitals and rural hospitals. Further, provides that such hospitals may also participate in serving populations covered under the waiver, notwithstanding any other provision of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 46:978 and 979(A))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the original bill.

1. Adds provision specifying priorities in use of the funding pool.