

1 SB259
2 149265-1
3 By Senators Bedford, Figures, Coleman, Keahey, Irons,
4 Smitherman, Dunn, Singleton, Ross, Beasley and Sanders
5 RFD: Health
6 First Read: 26-FEB-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would expand the Medicaid program
9 to provide assistance to all persons for whom
10 federal matching funds are available to the state
11 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
12 Act.

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14 A BILL
15 TO BE ENTITLED
16 AN ACT

17
18 Relating to Medicaid; to expand the program to
19 provide assistance to certain persons; to direct the Alabama
20 Medicaid Agency to implement the expansion; to direct other
21 state agencies and entities to provide certain assistance; and
22 to provide for appropriations for adequate funding.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. The Legislature finds all of the
25 following:

26 (1) The residents of this state are suffering
27 because of their lack of access to health care.

1 (2) Broad access to health care leads to preventive
2 care, which produces healthier families, a healthier
3 workforce, and an all around healthier state.

4 (3) The federal government will pay 100 percent of
5 the Medicaid expansion for three years starting in 2014 under
6 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. After that
7 time, the federal government's share will drop to 95 percent
8 in 2017, and ultimately to 90 percent in 2020.

9 (4) With the expansion of Medicaid, hundreds of
10 thousands of Alabamians will have access to critical
11 preventive care versus acute care for the first time in their
12 lives.

13 (5) Expansion of Medicaid will result in reduced
14 state spending on health care related services to those
15 previously uninsured residents with incomes below 133 percent
16 of the federal poverty limit.

17 (6) In addition to enhancing access to health care,
18 expansion of Medicaid would promote revenue and economic
19 activity in this state, resulting in the preservation and
20 creation of jobs.

21 Section 2. (a) The Medicaid program shall provide
22 assistance to all persons who apply and who are determined to
23 be eligible for assistance and for whom federal matching funds
24 are available to the state under the "Patient Protection and
25 Affordable Care Act," Public Law 111-148, March 23, 2010, as
26 amended by the "Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act
27 of 2010," Public Law 111-152, March 30, 2010.

1 (b) The Alabama Medicaid Agency is hereby directed
2 to take any and all steps necessary to implement the Medicaid
3 expansion program as provided for in subsection (a) and shall
4 be the lead agency for the implementation. The Alabama
5 Medicaid Agency is authorized to seek assistance from any
6 state or federal agencies or entities to implement the
7 program, and all state agencies or entities shall provide
8 assistance as requested by the agency.

9 (c) The Legislature shall annually appropriate
10 adequate funding to the Alabama Medicaid Agency for the
11 purpose of implementing and operating the Medicaid expansion
12 program pursuant to this act.

13 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
14 first day of the third month following its passage and
15 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.