

House Bill 214

By: Representatives Robichaux of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Bazemore of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Kausche of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Schofield of the 60<sup>th</sup>, and Hopson of the 153<sup>rd</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public  
2 assistance, so as to allow individuals to buy-in to Medicaid coverage; to provide for  
3 definitions; to provide for the establishment of the Medicaid Buy-In Program; to provide for  
4 the design and administration of the program; to provide for the establishment of premiums;  
5 to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for submission of a federal waiver if  
6 necessary; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to public assistance,  
10 is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

11 "ARTICLE 10

12 49-4-200.

13 As used in this article, the term:

14 (1) 'Department' means the Department of Community Health.

15 (2) 'Eligible person' means an individual who is not insured and not eligible for  
16 Medicaid.

17 (3) 'Enrollee' means an eligible person participating in the Medicaid Buy-In Program in  
18 exchange for premiums.

19 (4) 'Medicaid' means the program of medical assistance conducted pursuant to Article  
20 7 of this chapter, the 'Georgia Medical Assistance Act of 1977.'

21 (5) 'Medicaid Buy-In Program' or 'program' means the program established pursuant to  
22 this article to allow eligible persons to participate in Medicaid in exchange for paying  
23 premiums.

24 (6) 'Premium' means the monthly amount that an enrollee pays to participate in the  
25 program.

26 49-4-201.

27 (a) The department shall establish the Medicaid Buy-In Program. The program shall  
28 include the same coverage provided to recipients of Medicaid. Only eligible persons may  
29 enroll in the program. Enrollees shall be required to pay a monthly premium to the  
30 department.

31 (b) The department shall establish premiums based on an affordability scale. The amount  
32 of the premiums shall be set to offset the costs of the program to the extent possible.

33 (c) The department shall establish enrollment periods that are no less extensive than those  
34 provided under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

35 (d) In no event shall the design or operation of the program reduce eligibility or benefits  
36 for Medicaid enrollees, jeopardize federal financing for Medicaid, diminish Medicaid's  
37 long-term sustainability, or otherwise negatively impact Medicaid in any way.

38 49-4-202.

39 (a) The department may administer the program through the managed care organizations  
40 under contract with the department to provide Medicaid services and benefits.

41 (b) The department shall undertake efforts to disseminate information about the program  
42 to the public.

43 49-4-203.

44 The department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the  
45 provisions of this article.

46 49-4-204.

47 The department shall submit any Medicaid state plan amendments necessary to establish  
48 and implement the program in a manner consistent with this article to the United States  
49 Department of Health and Human Services."

50 **SECTION 2.**

51 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.