



1           (1) Operate the expanded segment of the Medicaid program either as a  
2           program administered directly by the department; or, at his discretion, and if  
3           authorized by the federal Medicaid agency, through a program that allows newly  
4           eligible beneficiaries to purchase private insurance.

5           (2) Fix income eligibility standards for the Medicaid program at levels  
6           greater than the minimum levels provided in federal law if specifically authorized  
7           by law to do so.

8           Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
9           to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on October 24,  
10          2015.

11          Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,  
12          there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted  
13          to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as  
14          follows:

15                   Do you support an amendment to expand eligibility for the Medicaid  
16                   program in this state to conform with eligibility standards provided in federal  
17                   law, and to authorize the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health  
18                   and Hospitals, at his discretion, to conduct the expansion of Medicaid  
19                   through a program that allows new beneficiaries to purchase private  
20                   insurance? (Adds Article XII, Section 8.2)

---

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

HB 517 Original

2015 Regular Session

Edwards

**Abstract:** Constitutional amendment to provide for expansion of Medicaid eligibility in conformance with minimum standards provided in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires expansion of La. Medicaid eligibility standards such that they conform, at minimum, to the minimum standards provided in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub. L. 111-148). Such expansion would provide Medicaid coverage for all persons in La. with household income at or below 138% of the

federal poverty level (an annual household income at or below \$33,465 for a family of four currently).

Proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to do all of the following:

- (1) Operate the expanded segment of the Medicaid program either as a program administered directly by the department, or through a program that allows newly eligible beneficiaries to purchase private insurance.
- (2) Fix income eligibility standards for the Medicaid program at levels greater than the minimum levels provided in federal law if specifically authorized by law to do so.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Oct. 24, 2015.

(Adds Const. Art. XII, §8.2)