

By: Representative Johnson

To: Medicaid

HOUSE BILL NO. 1591

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID TO MONITOR,
2 CONDUCT A STUDY ON AND EVALUATE THE IMPACTS OF ANY MANDATORY WORK
3 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN ANY MEDICAID EXPANSION PROGRAM ENACTED
4 BY THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. (1) The Division of Medicaid shall collect and
7 report upon all data in connection with any Medicaid expansion
8 program enacted by the Legislature as federal law may require.

9 (2) In addition to and on the same schedule as the data
10 collection required by federal law and subsection (1), the
11 division shall collect and report on further information with
12 respect to any mandatory work reporting requirements in any
13 enacted Medicaid expansion program.

14 (3) With respect to all terminations of Medicaid benefits to
15 the coverage group in any enacted Medicaid expansion program, all
16 of the same information as required under the federal law, plus
17 the specific reason or reasons for the termination must be
18 recorded and provided for the study upon request.

19 (4) (a) The division shall, in conjunction with the Board
20 of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), in
21 addition to the foregoing data collection and reporting
22 activities, conduct a study on the implementation of any enacted
23 Medicaid expansion program and any work reporting requirements.

24 (b) The study shall select subgroups representing
25 important sectors of the coverage group, including type of area of
26 residence (city, suburban, small town, rural), English
27 proficiency, level of education, literacy, work experience, number
28 of adults in the home, number of children in the home, teen
29 parentage, parents before and after the age of eighteen (18)
30 years, and other such subgroups. For each subgroup, the study
31 shall assemble a statistically valid sample of cases entering the
32 Medicaid expansion program and work reporting requirements at
33 least six (6) months after its implementation date and before July
34 1, 2026.

35 (c) The study shall continue until July 1, 2031. The
36 division shall report to the Medicaid Committees of the House and
37 Senate and the Governor by March 1 of each year, beginning July 1,
38 2027, the interim findings of the study with respect to each
39 subgroup, and by August 1, 2031, the final findings of the study
40 with respect to each subgroup. The reports shall be available to
41 the public upon request.

42 (d) No later than November 1, 2031, the division, in
43 consultation with an advisory panel of specialists in welfare



44 policy, social science, and other relevant fields shall devise the
45 study and identify the factors to be studied. The study shall,
46 however, at least include demographic breakdowns including, but
47 not limited to, race, gender, and number of children in the
48 household at the beginning of Division services. Study
49 participants must meet the following criteria to participate:

50 (i) Be between the ages of nineteen (19) and
51 sixty-four (64) years with income of not more than 138% of the
52 federal poverty level;

53 (ii) Have received Medicaid coverage in the past
54 year and have been subject to new Medicaid work requirements as a
55 condition of eligibility; and

56 (iii) Have lost Medicaid eligibility in the past
57 six (6) months by not meeting division's work requirement rules
58 and reporting procedures; or regained Medicaid coverage by
59 reporting work activities; or received employment assistance.

60 (e) The division shall obtain permission to conduct the
61 study from the subjects of the study and guarantee their privacy
62 according to the federal Health Insurance Portability and
63 Accountability Act (HIPPA). To facilitate this permission, the
64 study may be designed to refer to subject by pseudonyms or codes
65 and shall in any event guarantee anonymity to the subject without
66 limiting access by outsiders to the data (other than identities)
67 generated by the study.

68 (f) The subjects of the study shall be studied upon
69 enrollment and potential disenrollment based on compliance with
70 work reporting requirements to the extent feasible. The evaluator
71 shall attempt to maintain personal contact with the subjects of
72 the study, and employ such methods as meetings, telephone
73 contacts, written surveys, and computer matches with other data
74 bases to accomplish this purpose. The intent of this feature of
75 the study is to discover the paths the coverage group takes upon
76 expansion of Medicaid and implementation of work reporting
77 requirements including the factors that may influence these paths
78 and patterns. The study shall include a review and analysis of:
79 (i) The division's outreach and education efforts;
80 (ii) The division's training and employment
81 resources;
82 (iii) The division's work reporting systems;
83 (iv) The division's exemptions from work
84 requirements;
85 (v) The division's enrollee understanding of work
86 requirements; and
87 (vi) Implications of Medicaid coverage loss for
88 health care providers and health plans.

89 (g) The study shall examine the influence of various
90 employability, education, and training programs upon employment,
91 earnings, job tenure, and unemployment through work reporting
92 requirement mandates.



93 (h) The study shall examine the frequency of unplanned
94 occurrences in subjects' lives, such as illness or injury, family
95 members illness or injury, transportation complications, strikes,
96 natural disasters, evictions, loss of other sources of income,
97 domestic violence, and crime, and their impact upon employment,
98 earnings, job tenure, and unemployment through work reporting
99 requirement mandates.

100 (i) The study shall examine the reasons for subjects' benefits loss, the reasons for coverage loss due to administrative requirements, noncompliance of work reporting requirements, the availability of reenrollment services, programs or services utilized by subjects to reenroll, whether the subject suffered a job loss, the characteristics of the subjects next job if applicable, and the relationship of these factors to reenrollment benefits, job tenure, and unemployment through work reporting requirement mandates.

109 (j) The study shall examine the impact of mandatory
110 work reporting requirements, including the types of work
111 activities, and the links between the requirements and the
112 activities and sanctions, employment, earnings, job tenure, and
113 unemployment through work reporting requirement mandates.

114 (k) The study shall, in compliance with HIPPA laws and
115 regulations, track the subjects' usage of Medicaid benefits over
116 the course of the study, including patterns of usage, preventative



117 visits/screenings, sick visits, surgeries, emergency room visits,
118 and number of cases.

119 (1) The study shall put an objective, third-party
120 evaluation in place - ideally, before, but at least at the start
121 of a Medicaid work requirements demonstration - so that the
122 implementation and impacts can be rigorously evaluated.

123 (5) This section shall stand repealed on January 31, 2031.

124 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
125 and after its passage.

