

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 7 Florida Kidcare Program

SPONSOR(S): Diaz and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Health Innovation Subcommittee	11 Y, 0 N	Poche	Shaw
2) Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Health & Human Services Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Florida Kidcare Program (Kidcare) was created by the Florida Legislature in 1998 in response to the federal enactment of the State Children's Health Insurance Program in 1997, later known more simply as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP provides subsidized health insurance coverage to uninsured children who do not qualify for Medicaid but who meet other eligibility requirements. The state statutory authority for Kidcare is found in part II of ch. 409, F.S.

Kidcare consists of Medicaid, MediKids, the Children's Medical Services Network, and Florida Healthy Kids. Kidcare coverage is funded by state and federal funds through Title XIX (Medicaid) and Title XXI (CHIP) of the federal Social Security Act. Families also contribute to the cost of the coverage under the Title XXI-funded components of Kidcare based on their household size, income, and other eligibility factors. For families with incomes above the income limits for premium assistance or who do not otherwise qualify for assistance, Kidcare also offers an option under the Healthy Kids component and the MediKids component for the family to obtain coverage for their children by paying the full premium.

Federal law restricted the eligibility of documented immigrants, including children and pregnant women, for social service benefits and programs such as Medicaid and CHIP. Documented immigrants were ineligible to apply for and received these benefits for 5 years, beginning with the date of their arrival in the United States. In 2009, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act permitted states to remove the 5 year waiting period and allow certain children immediate eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP coverage.

HB 7 removes the 5 year waiting period for lawfully present children in Florida, making those children immediately eligible for health care coverage through Kidcare and for payment of optional medical assistance and related services under Medicaid. The bill clearly states that eligibility for the Program is not being extended to undocumented immigrants.

The bill has a significant fiscal impact of \$69,194,315, of which \$19,714,395 is general revenue.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Florida Kidcare Program

The Florida Kidcare Program (Kidcare or Program) was created by the Florida Legislature in 1998 in response to the federal enactment of the State Children's Health Insurance Program in 1997, later known more simply as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The federal authority for the CHIP is located in Title XXI of the Social Security Act. Initially authorized for 10 years and then recently re-authorized through 2019 with federal funding through 2015¹, the CHIP provides subsidized health insurance coverage to uninsured children who do not qualify for Medicaid but who meet other eligibility requirements. The state statutory authority for the Program is found in part II of ch. 409, F.S.

Kidcare encompasses four programs:

- Medicaid for children;
- The Medikids program;
- The Children's Medical Services Network; and
- The Florida Healthy Kids program.

Kidcare coverage is funded by state and federal funds through Title XIX (Medicaid) and Title XXI (CHIP) of the federal Social Security Act. Families also contribute to the cost of the coverage under the Title XXI-funded components of Kidcare based on their household size, income, and other eligibility factors. For families with incomes above the income limits for premium assistance or who do not otherwise qualify for assistance, Kidcare also offers an option under the Healthy Kids component and the Medikids component for the family to obtain coverage for their children by paying the full premium. Eligibility for the Program components that are funded by Title XXI is determined in part by age and household income as follows:

- Medicaid for Children: Title XXI funding is available from birth until age 1 for family incomes between 185 percent and 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Medikids: Title XXI funding is available from age 1 until age 5 for family incomes between 133 percent and 200 percent of the FPL.
- Healthy Kids: Title XXI funding is available from age 5 until age 6 for family incomes between 133 percent and 200 percent of the FPL. For age 6 until age 19, Title XXI funding is available for family incomes between 100 percent and 200 percent of the FPL.
- Children's Medical Services Network: Title XXI and Title XIX funds are available from birth until age 19 for family incomes up to 200 percent of the FPL for children with special health care needs. The Department of Health assesses whether children meet the program's clinical requirements.

Kidcare is administered jointly by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation (FHKC). Each entity has specific duties and responsibilities under Kidcare as detailed in part II of ch. 409, F.S. The DCF determines eligibility for Medicaid, and the FHKC processes all Kidcare applications and determines eligibility for the CHIP, which includes a Medicaid screening and referral process to the DCF, as appropriate.

To enroll in Kidcare, families utilize a form that is both a Medicaid and CHIP application. Families may apply using the paper application or an online application. Both formats are available in English,

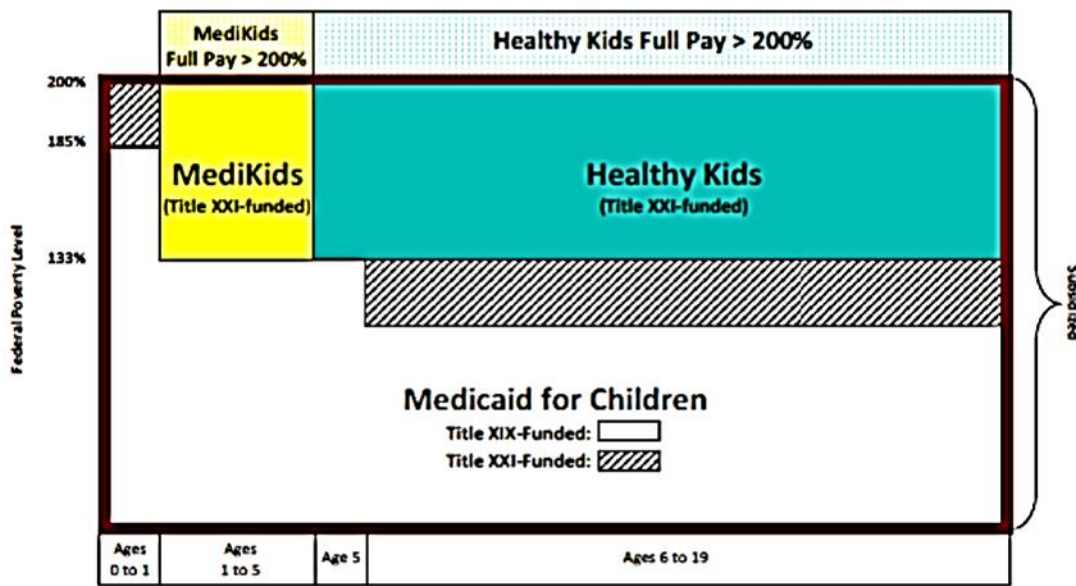
¹ Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, s. 10203.

Spanish, and Creole. Income eligibility is determined through electronic data matches with available databases or, in cases where income cannot be verified electronically, through submission of current pay stubs, tax returns, or W-2 forms. Children are then determined to be eligible for the appropriate Program component based on the applicable income standards or they are determined to be ineligible for the Program based on applicable income standards.

Currently, FHKC receives all KidCare applications and screens for Medicaid eligibility. Families can apply for Medicaid for children or the Title XXI programs using the KidCare application. Families may also apply for Medicaid using the DCF form, Request for Assistance. The DCF Request for Assistance form cannot be used to apply for the Title XXI programs. Families can apply for both programs online. KidCare applications for children potentially eligible for Medicaid are electronically sent to the DCF for a complete Medicaid eligibility determination. If the child is not eligible for Medicaid, FHKC is notified to continue the Title XXI eligibility determination. FHKC determines eligibility for all of the Title XXI programs.

The following chart summarizes eligibility and funding for Kidcare.²

Florida KidCare Eligibility



Eff. 1/1/2014

CMS Network
(Title XIX and Title XXI)

² Florida KidCare, Florida KidCare Eligibility, available at www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/KidCare/images/data/2014KidCareFlag.pdf (last viewed on February 8, 2014).

The 2013-2014 General Appropriations Act appropriated \$474,825,007 for the Title XXI (CHIP) Program.³ As of January 2014, a total of 2,118,228 children are enrolled in Kidcare.⁴ The following chart details the enrollment totals for each component of the Kidcare:⁵

PROGRAM	ENROLLMENT
Medicaid- Title XIX	1,824,176
Healthy Kids- Title XXI	233,307
CMS Network- Title XXI	21,247
MediKids- Title XXI (full pay enrollees)	25,997 (4,405)
Funded Medicaid ⁶	9,096
TOTAL	2,118,228

The Social Services Estimating Conference convened on October 2 and October 25, 2013 to adopt a caseload and expenditure forecast for the Program through June 2018. Caseload projections under the new forecast for Healthy Kids are slightly lower than the estimates adopted in June 2013 for FY 2013-14.⁷ For fiscal year 2013-14, the program is projected to end the year with a General Revenue surplus of \$0.94 million.⁸ For fiscal year 2014-15, there is a projected General Revenue surplus of \$8.45 million relative to the continuation budget.⁹

Eligibility of Alien Children for Medicaid and CHIP

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)¹⁰ was created in 1952 to consolidate statutes governing immigration law. The INA defines the term “alien” as “any person not a citizen or national of the United States.”¹¹ Generally, under the INA, an alien is not eligible for any State or local public benefit, including health benefits, unless the alien is:

- A qualified alien,
- A nonimmigrant alien under the INA, or
- An alien who is paroled into the United States under the INA.¹²

The INA permits a state to provide an alien, who is not lawfully present in the United States, eligibility for any state or local public benefit for which the alien would otherwise be ineligible, but only through the enactment of a state law which affirmatively provides for such eligibility.¹³

The enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (“Reconciliation Act”)¹⁴ placed limitations on federal funding for health coverage of immigrant families.

³ Ch. 2013-40, ss. 174-179.

⁴ Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida KidCare Enrollment Report- January 2014 (Revised) (on file with Health Innovation subcommittee staff).

⁵ MediKids and Medicaid enrollment numbers reflect retrospective data as reported by the Agency for Health Care Administration, Program Analysis. Healthy Kids enrollment is reported by Florida Healthy Kids Corporation and CMS Network enrollment is reported by the Department of Health.

⁶ Includes newly eligible and Medicaid children who would have previously been referred to CHIP.

⁷ The Florida Legislature, Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Social Services Estimating Conference-Florida KidCare Program-Executive Summary, October 25, 2013, available at <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/kidcare/kidcareexec.pdf> (last viewed on February 8, 2014).

⁸ Id.

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Pub. L. No. 82-414

¹¹ Id. at s. 101(3)

¹² 8 U.S.C. §1621(a)(1)-(3)

¹³ 8 U.S.C. §1621(d)

¹⁴ Pub. L. No. 104-193

The law imposed a 5-year waiting period on certain groups of qualified aliens, including most children and pregnant women who were otherwise eligible for Medicaid.¹⁵ Medicaid coverage for individuals subject to the 5-year waiting period and for those who do not meet the definition of qualified alien was limited to treatment of an emergency medical condition. The 5-year waiting period also applies to children and pregnant women under the CHIP.

Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA)¹⁶ permits states to cover certain children and pregnant women who are "lawfully residing in the United States" in both Medicaid and the CHIP, notwithstanding certain provisions in the Reconciliation Act. States may elect to cover these groups under Medicaid only or under both Medicaid and the CHIP. The law does not permit states to cover these new groups only in the CHIP, without also extending the option to Medicaid.

On July 1, 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services sent a letter to state health officials regarding Medicaid and CHIP coverage for lawfully residing children and pregnant women. The letter states that children and pregnant women who fall into one of the following categories will be considered lawfully present. These individuals are eligible for Medicaid and CHIP coverage, if the state elects the new option under CHIPRA, and the child or pregnant woman meets the state residency requirements and other Medicaid or CHIP eligibility requirements.

- A qualified alien as defined in section 431 of Reconciliation Act (8 U.S.C. §1641).
- An alien in nonimmigrant status who has not violated the terms of the status under which he or she was admitted or to which he or she has changed after admission.
- An alien who has been paroled into the U.S. pursuant to section 212(d)(5) of the INA (8 U.S.C. §1182(d)(5)) for less than 1 year, except for an alien paroled for prosecution, for deferred inspection or pending removal proceedings.
- An alien who belongs to one of the following classes:
 - Aliens currently in temporary resident status pursuant to section 210 or 245A of the INA (8 U.S.C. §§1160 or 1255a, respectively);
 - Aliens currently under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) pursuant to section 244 of the INA (8 U.S.C. §1254a), and pending applicants for TPS who have been granted employment authorization;
 - Aliens who have been granted employment authorization under 8 CFR 274a.12(c)(9), (10), (16), (18), (20), (22), or (24);
 - Family Unity beneficiaries pursuant to section 301 of Pub. L. 101-649, as amended;
 - Aliens currently under Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) pursuant to a decision made by the President;
 - Aliens currently in deferred action status; or
 - Aliens whose visa petition has been approved and who have a pending application for adjustment of status.
- A pending applicant for asylum under section 208(a) of the INA (8 U.S.C. §1158) or for withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) of the INA (8 U.S.C. §1231) or under the Convention Against Torture who has been granted employment authorization, and such an applicant under the age of 14 who has had an application pending for at least 180 days.
- An alien who has been granted withholding of removal under the Convention Against Torture.
- A child who has a pending application for Special Immigrant Juvenile status as described in section 101(a)(27)(J) of the INA (8 U.S.C. §1101(a)(27)(J)).
- An alien who is lawfully present in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under 48 U.S.C. §1806(e).
- An alien who is lawfully present in American Samoa under the immigration laws of American Samoa.

¹⁵ Id. at s. 403(a)

¹⁶ Pub. L. No. 111-3

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill adds the definition of “lawfully residing child” to the Florida Kidcare Act.¹⁷ To meet the definition, a child must be lawfully present in the United States and meet state residency requirements for CHIP or Medicaid, and may be eligible for assistance under CHIPRA.

The bill makes a lawfully residing child immediately eligible for health benefits coverage under Kidcare, and eligible for payment of optional Medicaid assistance and related services, thereby removing the 5 year waiting period imposed under the Reconciliation Act and exercising the state’s option to do so as provided under CHIPRA.

The bill clearly states that Kidcare eligibility is not being extended to an undocumented immigrant by the changes to s. 409.814, F.S. The bill also clearly states that Kidcare eligibility for optional Medicaid payments or other services is not being extended to an undocumented immigrant by the changes to s. 409.904, F.S.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 409.811, F.S., relating to definitions relating to Florida Kidcare Act.

Section 2: Amends s. 409.814, F.S., relating to eligibility.

Section 3: Amends s. 409.904, F.S., relating to optional payments for eligible persons.

Section 4: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The Agency for Health Care Administration provides the following fiscal impact analysis of the bill on both CHIP and Medicaid programs (emphasis added):¹⁸

Title XXI (CHIP)

As federal funds are available for these expenditures, the state would incur its share of this additional cost. For SFY 2014-15, the state will pay 28.63% of the qualified expenditures and the federal government under Title XXI covers the remaining 71.37%. This analysis assumes that funding will continue for the Title XXI KidCare eligible children. **2,652** additional children will be covered a month for the first 12 months and this number will be recurring.

Total Additional Costs	\$5,561,536
Less: Federal Funds under Title XXI (67.07%)	\$3,730,111
Less: Grants & Donation Trust Fund (6.03%)	\$335,095
State Funds required (26.90%) General Revenue	\$1,496,330

Funds derived from the Grants and Donation Trust Fund derived from family payment of premiums is proportionately applied to reduce state and federal share.

¹⁷ SS. 409.810, F.S., through 409.821, F.S.

¹⁸ Agency for Health Care Administration, 2014 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis- HB 7, received February 14, 2014, pg. 5 (on file with Health Innovation subcommittee).

Medicaid Services funded by Title XXI funds

This analysis assumes that Medicaid services provided would be funded by Title XXI FMAP per section 214 of the federal CHIPRA legislation. **22,903** additional children will be covered a month for the first 12 months and this number will be recurring.

Total Additional Cost with no Family Premiums	\$63,632,779
Less: Federal Funds under Title XIX (71.37%)	\$45,414,714
Less: Grants & Donation Trust Fund	\$0
State Funds required (28.63%) General Revenue	\$18,218,065

The total fiscal impact on the Agency for both CHIP and Medicaid funded under Title XXI in SFY 2014-15 for the provisions in this bill will be \$69,194,315 with \$19,714,395 being the General Revenue impact.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Health care providers may see an increase in patients who receive health insurance coverage through the Program sooner than under current law. Children who are lawfully present in the state will be eligible for health insurance coverage, potentially increasing the frequency of access to medical care.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The DOH, the DCF, and the AHCA have appropriate rule-making authority to implement the provisions of the bill.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES