

26 outcomes.

27 (2) The Agency for Health Care Administration, in
28 consultation with the Commission on Mental Health and Substance
29 Use Disorder created under s. 394.9086, Florida Statutes, shall
30 conduct a study to assess the potential impacts of adjusting the
31 Medicaid income eligibility criteria to extend coverage to young
32 adults 18 to 26 years of age who are affected by the health
33 insurance coverage gap because they are unable to receive
34 coverage through a parent and are also unable to personally
35 obtain health insurance coverage through an employer or through
36 Medicaid due to the program's income eligibility criteria. In
37 its study, the agency, at a minimum, shall do all of the
38 following:

39 (a) Identify the estimated average number of young adults
40 who are affected by the health insurance coverage gap each year.
41 The agency shall use any relevant data available from the
42 preceding 5 years and shall conduct additional assessment
43 surveys, as needed, in developing the estimate.

44 (b) Estimate the additional costs to the Medicaid program
45 as a result of extending coverage for behavioral health services
46 and primary and preventative care to such young adults,
47 identifying any factors that may offset such costs.

48 (c) To the extent possible, determine the behavioral
49 health needs of such young adults which go unaddressed as a
50 result of not having health insurance coverage.

51 (d) To the extent possible, identify any correlation
52 between unaddressed behavioral and physical health needs of
53 young adults affected by the health insurance coverage gap and
54 their use of urgent care and emergency room services when
55 compared to peers who have health insurance coverage.

56 (3) Based on the findings in the study, the agency shall:

57 (a) Identify the extent of the behavioral and physical
58 health needs of young adults 18 to 26 years of age in this state
59 who are affected by the health insurance coverage gap.

60 (b) Identify evidence-based interventions that will
61 address the specific needs of such young adults and increase
62 access to behavioral health care and primary and preventative
63 care, including, but not limited to, any pilot programs that may
64 be implemented in this state.

65 (c) Develop a strategic, data-driven approach to
66 addressing behavioral health care access and costs for targeted
67 at-risk populations that will benefit from early intervention.

68 (d) Make recommendations as to whether the Medicaid
69 program can sustain an expansion of income eligibility criteria
70 for such young adults and, if so, the changes that should be
71 made to the income eligibility criteria.

72 (e) Identify any legislative barriers to implementing the
73 agency's recommendations.

74 (4) The agency shall submit a report of its findings and
75 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,

HB 277

2024

76 | and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1,
77 | 2025.

78 | Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.