
WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 9
ARTICLE 4E

WV Legislature

§9-4E-1. Purpose.

(a) The purpose of this program shall be to reduce Medicaid costs for long-term care by encouraging the purchase of private long-term care insurance policies that are covered under the "qualified state long-term care insurance partnerships."

(b) It is the intent of the long-term care partnership to do all of the following:

(1) Provide incentives for individuals to insure against the costs of providing for their long-term care needs.

(2) Provide a mechanism for individuals to qualify for coverage of the cost of their long-term care needs under Medicaid without first being required to substantially exhaust their resources.

(3) Alleviate the financial burden on the state's medical assistance program by encouraging the pursuit of private initiatives.

§9-4E-2. Definitions.

- (a) "Asset disregard" means, with regard to the state's medical assistance program, disregarding any assets or resources in an amount equal to the insurance benefit payments that are made to or on behalf of an individual who is a beneficiary under a qualified long-term care insurance partnership policy.
- (b) "Long-term care insurance" means a policy described in section four (a), article fifteen (A), chapter thirty-three of this code.
- (c) "Long-term care partnership program" means a qualified state long-term care insurance partnership as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1396, Section 1917(b) of the Social Security Act.
- (d) "Medicaid" means that assistance provided under a state plan implemented by subchapter nineteen, chapter seven, Title 42, United States Code, as that chapter has been and may hereafter be amended.

§9-4E-3. Authority.

(a) The program shall be administered by the Bureau for Medical Services. The bureau shall establish a long-term care partnership program in West Virginia in order to provide for the financing of long-term care through a combination of private insurance and Medicaid in accordance with federal requirements on qualified state long-term care insurance partnerships.

(b) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of this article, the Bureau for Medical Services shall file a state plan amendment, pursuant to Title XIX of the United States Social Security Act and any amendments thereto, to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish that the assets an individual owns and may retain under Medicaid and still qualify for benefits under Medicaid at the time the individual applies for benefits is increased dollar-for-dollar for each dollar paid out under the individual's long-term care insurance policy if the individual is a beneficiary of a qualified long-term care partnership program policy.

(c) An individual who is a beneficiary of a West Virginia long-term care partnership program and meets eligibility requirements is eligible for assistance under the state's medical assistance program using the asset disregard as provided under subsection (b).

(d) The Bureau of Medical Services shall pursue reciprocal agreements with other states to extend the asset disregard to West Virginia residents who purchased long-term care partnership policies in other states that are compliant with Title VI, Section 6021 of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, PL 109-171, and any applicable federal regulations or guidelines.

(e) Upon diminishment of assets below the anticipated remaining benefits under a long-term care partnership program policy, certain assets of an individual, as provided under subsection (b), shall not be considered when determining any of the following:

(1) Medicaid eligibility;

(2) The amount of any Medicaid payment;

(3) Any subsequent recovery by the state of a payment for medical services or long-term care services.

(f) If the long-term care partnership program is discontinued, an individual who purchased a West Virginia long-term care partnership program policy before the date the program was discontinued shall be eligible to receive asset disregard if allowed as provided by Title VI, Section 6021 of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, PL 109-171.