WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2004

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
House Bill No. 4412

(By Delegates Michael, Leach, Doyle, Perdue and Foster)

Passed March 11, 2004

In Effect Ninety Days from Passage
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FOR

H. B. 4412

(BY DELEGATES MICHAEL, LEACH, DOYLE, PERDUE AND FOSTER)

[Passed March 11, 2004; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend the code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §5-16B-6c, relating to directing the children’s health insurance board to study all available means to develop a plan modification to permit participation by families with income levels between two hundred percent and three hundred percent of the federal poverty level; findings; premium; and report to Legislature.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §5-16B-6c, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 16B. WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.
§5-16B-6c. Modified benefit plan for children of families of low income between two hundred and three hundred percent of the poverty level.

The Legislature finds:

1. That there exists a number of families of low to moderate income without access to affordable health insurance coverage, whose children are denied plan participation because their family income exceeds two hundred percent of the federal poverty level;

2. That this exclusion imposes a heavy burden on many families by forcing them to elect whether to spend money on their children’s health care or for their food, clothing and educational needs;

3. That a plan should be developed and considered whereby children in families with an income between two hundred and three hundred percent of the federal poverty level would contribute approximately twenty to twenty-five percent of the actual cost of coverage resulting in no additional cost to state government; and

4. That, while the primary goal of any plan will be the improvement of health care for these children, a successful plan for extending this coverage will benefit the state by improving the economy by allowing parents of these children to spend more for goods and services and by lowering future medical expenditures, uncompensated care and the other long-term adverse economic effects related to having a segment of the adult population which has been deprived of adequate medical care during childhood.

The board is directed to conduct a study of all available means to develop a viable, modified plan to enroll the children of those families having a level of income between two hundred
and three hundred percent of the federal poverty level and to consider that such a plan should charge an affordable premium and may be phased in over a two-year period.

The board is further directed to study total program costs related to the implementation of a viable modified plan to expand coverage with the design requiring no additional state dollars and to study the long term effect on the state budget.

The board is directed to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance at its monthly meeting of August, two thousand four.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 5th day of April, 2004.

Governor