

HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Child health insurance program amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health and Social Services  
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health and safety; amending  
2 eligibility criteria under the child health insurance  
3 program to include parents or guardians as specified;  
4 providing a maximum participation limit; providing  
5 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

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7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-25-111 is created to read:

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11 **35-25-111. Participation of Parents or Guardians.**

12

13 (a) Subject to the approval of a waiver by the United  
14 States secretary of health and human services and subject  
15 to available state and federal funding, parents or  
16 guardians of children enrolled in the child health

1 insurance program or the medical assistance program may be  
2 eligible for participation in the programs under the  
3 following conditions:

4

5 (i) One (1) of the parents or guardians in the  
6 household is working at a full or part time job;

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8 (ii) If the parents are separated or divorced,  
9 the non-custodial parent shall not be eligible for  
10 participation in the program;

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12 (iii) The employer of the participating parent  
13 or guardian agrees to pay for at least one-half of the  
14 monthly premiums of the health insurance plan selected by  
15 the parent or guardian under the provisions of W.S.  
16 35-25-111(b). For program participants who work less than  
17 an average of thirty (30) hours per week, the department  
18 may waive this provision and collect an hourly fee from the  
19 employer.

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21 (b) Parents or guardians may participate in the  
22 program through the employer's health insurance plan or  
23 through a group plan contracted by the department for  
24 program participants under the provisions of W.S.

1 35-25-106(a). The department shall assess the qualifying  
2 parents and guardians a participation fee. The amount of  
3 the fee may vary depending upon the level of income greater  
4 than 133% of the federal poverty level. Parents or  
5 guardians with a household income of 133% of the federal  
6 poverty level or less shall not be assessed a participation  
7 fee.

8

9 (c) In the group plan offered by the department, the  
10 package of benefits available to participating parents and  
11 guardians may vary depending upon qualifying household  
12 income. The plan offered by an employer is not subject to  
13 a benchmark set of benefits.

14

15 (d) If the parent or guardian is covered through an  
16 employer's group health insurance plan, the total amount of  
17 funding provided to the parent or guardian to participate  
18 in the employer's plan shall not exceed the cost that the  
19 department would pay for participation in the plan provided  
20 under W.S. 35-25-106(a), minus the employer's one-half  
21 contribution and the employee's contribution under W.S.  
22 35-25-111(b).

23

1           (e) Students who are attending the university of  
2 Wyoming or a state community college may qualify for  
3 participation in the program provided they qualify under  
4 the work-study provisions of the temporary assistance to  
5 needy families program.

6  
7           (f) The total enrollment of parents, guardians and  
8 students through the waiver in the child health insurance  
9 program or the medical assistance program shall not exceed  
10 three thousand seven hundred twenty (3,720).

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12           **Section 2.** Three million three hundred fifty thousand  
13 dollars (\$3,350,000.00) in federal funds and one million  
14 six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,650,000.00) from the  
15 general fund is appropriated to the department of health  
16 for case service expenditures as provided in this act.

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18           **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2006.

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(END)