



# Legislative Council Staff

## Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 5/19/2016

### Bill Number

House Bill 16-1321

### Sponsors

*Representative Young,  
Senators Merrifield & Tate*

### Short Title

*Medicaid Buy-in Certain  
Medicaid Waivers*

### Research Analyst

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### Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill and becomes effective upon the signature of the Governor.

### Summary

This bill directs the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to seek federal authorization to implement a Medicaid buy-in program for adults who are eligible to receive home- and community-based services under the Supported Living Services (SLS) Medicaid waiver, the brain injury waiver, and the spinal cord injury pilot program. HCPF must implement the Medicaid program no later than three months after receiving federal approval.

### Background

Colorado Medicaid currently has a buy-in program for working adults with disabilities. The existing buy-in program allows adults with a qualifying disability who earn incomes less than 450 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to maintain Medicaid coverage by paying a premium (i.e., to buy in to Medicaid) based on a sliding payment scale.

This bill extends the Medicaid buy-in program to adults that are eligible to receive home- and community-based services under the SLS Medicaid waiver, the brain injury waiver, and the spinal cord injury program. The SLS waiver provides services and supports to adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities to allow them to remain in their homes and communities. The brain injury and spinal cord injury waivers help individuals with brain injuries or spinal cord injuries remain in a community setting. To participate in the waiver programs, adults must meet certain financial and program criteria. HCPF must apply for and receive authorization from the Centers for Medicaid

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and Medicare Services to implement the expansion of the Medicaid buy-in program.

## House Action

**House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee (March 11, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives from the Arc of Colorado, Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, Alliance Colorado, and HCPF testified in support of the bill. The committee adopted amendment L.001 and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Finance Committee. Amendment L.001 added those that are eligible for the brain injury waiver or the spinal cord injury pilot program to the population that is eligible for the Medicaid buy-in program, and also required that HCPF submit a request for federal approval for the buy-in program no later than January 1, 2017.

**House Finance Committee (April 7, 2016).** At the hearing, a representative with the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the House Appropriations Committee with no amendments.

**House Appropriations Committee (April 15, 2016).** At the hearing, the committee adopted amendment J.001 and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole. Amendment J.001 added an appropriation clause to the bill.

**House second reading (April 15, 2016).** The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

**House third reading (April 18, 2016).** The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

## Senate Action

**Senate Health and Human Services Committee (April 27, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives from The Resource Exchange, The Arc Of Colorado, and a member of the public testified in support of the bill. Representatives from HCPF responded to questions about the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Finance Committee with no amendments.

**Senate Finance Committee (May 3, 2016).** At the hearing, representatives from The Arc of Colorado and Alliance Colorado testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Appropriations Committee with no amendments.

**Senate Appropriations Committee (May 6, 2016).** At the hearing, the committee adopted amendment J.002 and referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole. Amendment J.002 adjusted the appropriation clause.

**Senate second reading (May 6, 2016).** The Senate adopted the Senate Appropriations Committee report and passed the bill on second reading.

**Senate third reading (May 9, 2016).** The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.