



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 6/29/2017

Bill Number

Senate Bill 17-121

Sponsors

**Senators Crowder & Lundberg
Representatives Danielson &
Landgraf**

Short Title

***Improve Medicaid Client
Correspondence***

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill and becomes effective August 9, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

Background

The Interim Study Committee on Communication Between the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and Medicaid Clients (Interim Study Committee) convened during the 2016 interim to study:

- the current form and content of letters that are sent to Medicaid clients by the department;
- the frequency with which letters are sent to Medicaid clients by the department; and
- whether such letters can be simplified and the content made more clear so as to improve the information that is communicated to Medicaid clients.

The committee recommended four bills addressing these topics for consideration during the 2017 legislative session.

Senate Action

Senate Health and Human Services Committee (February 16, 2017). At the hearing, representatives of Hunger Free Colorado, Colorado Senior Lobby, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, and the Gerontological Society testified in support of the bill. Representatives of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and Colorado Legal Services testified in a neutral position.

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on the bill. The committee adopted amendments L.001 and L.003 and referred the bill to the Committee on Appropriations.

Amendment L.001 struck everything below the enacting clause. The amendment clarified that HCPF will:

- work with experts in written communication and plain language to write and test revised client communications; and
- subject to federal funding, make electronically available to a client specific and detailed information concerning the client's household composition, assets, income sources, and income amounts, if relevant to a determination for which client correspondence was issued.

Amendment L.003 made a technical change to amendment L.001.

Senate Appropriations Committee (April 6, 2017). The committee adopted amendments J.002 and J.004 and referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole. The amendments adjust the bill's appropriations clause.

Senate second reading (April 11, 2017). The Senate adopted the Senate Health and Human Services and the Appropriations committee reports and passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

Senate third reading (April 12, 2017). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House Action

House Health, Insurance, & Environment Committee (April 20, 2017). At the hearing, representatives of North West Colorado Center for Independence, All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition, Colorado Senior Lobby, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, and three private citizens testified in support of the bill. A representative of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing responded to questions. The committee referred the bill to the House Appropriations Committee with no amendments.

House Appropriations Committee (April 28, 2017). The committee adopted referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole with no amendments.

House second reading (April 28, 2017). The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

House third reading (May 1, 2017). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Research

- Final Report - Interim Study Committee on Communication Between the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and Medicaid Clients - The Colorado Legislative Council Research Publication No. 676, December 2016
<http://leg.colorado.gov/publications/2016-hcpf-interim-committee-final-report>