First Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted on Second Reading in the House of Introduction

LLS NO. 23-0700.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL 23-1228

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskie and Willford.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Zenzinger and Smallwood,

House Committees

Senate Committees

Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services Finance Appropriations

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING NURSING FACILITY REIMBURSEMENT RATE SETTING, AND, 102 IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill adjusts the supplemental medicaid payment rates a qualifying nursing facility receives from the department of health care policy and financing (state department).

Current law limits the annual increase of the general fund share of the aggregate statewide average of the per diem rate to not more than 3%. The bill removes this limitation and requires the general fund share be calculated based on specific percentage increases.

The bill requires the state department to initiate a process no later than July 1, 2023, to remove the medicare costs from the provider rate setting by July 1, 2026.

The bill repeals the requirement that only such costs as are reasonable, necessary, and patient-related be reported for reimbursement purposes.

The bill authorizes the state department to require a nursing facility, as a condition of receiving medicaid funds, to submit any documentation necessary to ensure the state's interest in transparency, stability, and sound fiscal stewardship.

As part of developing and implementing a transition plan to regulate nursing facility reimbursement, the bill requires the state department to:

- No later than July 1, 2026, define "nursing home reimbursement" and provide payments to nursing facilities;
- Engage with stakeholders regularly to seek input on any proposed methodology changes; and
- From November 1, 2023, to November 1, 2026, submit an annual report to the joint budget committee of the general assembly regarding the implementation process.

The bill requires the state department to issue additional supplemental payments to nursing facility providers with disproportionately high medicaid utilization, to facilities that are geographically critical to ensuring access to care, and to facilities that admit compassionate release individuals from the department of corrections.

Effective July 1, 2026, the bill repeals:

- The requirement that the state department exempt certain nursing facility providers from the provider fee;
- The process for providing a wage enhancement supplemental payment to eligible nursing home providers that pay their employees a wage of at least \$15 per hour; and
- Requirements for issuing additional supplemental payments to nursing facility providers that meet certain requirements.
- 1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:
- 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-6-202, **amend**
- 3 (5), (6), (9)(b)(I), and (9)(c)(I); **repeal** (9)(c)(II); and **add** (9)(b)(I.5),
- 4 (13), (14), (15), and (16) as follows:

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25.5-6-202. **Providers - nursing facility** provider reimbursement - exemption - rules - repeal. (5) Subject to available moneys APPROPRIATIONS and the priority of the uses of the provider fees as established in section 25.5-6-203 (2)(b), in addition to the reimbursement rate components paid pursuant to subsections (1) to (4) of this section, the state department shall make a supplemental medicaid payment based upon performance to those nursing facility providers that provide services that result in better care and higher quality of life for their residents. This amount shall be determined by The state department SHALL DETERMINE THE PAYMENT AMOUNT based upon performance measures established in rules adopted by the state board in the domains of quality of life, quality of care, and facility management. The payment shall be computed annually as of July 1, 2009, and each July 1 thereafter, and shall not be less than twenty-five hundredths of one percent of the statewide average per diem rate for the combined rate components determined pursuant to subsections (1) to (4) of this section. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024, THE PAYMENT MUST NOT BE LESS THAN TWELVE PERCENT OF TOTAL PROVIDER FEE PAYMENTS AND MUST BE ADJUSTED FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024-25 AND 2025-26. NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2026, THE PAYMENT MUST NOT BE LESS THAN FIFTEEN PERCENT OF TOTAL PROVIDER FEE PAYMENTS AND MUST BE ANNUALLY ADJUSTED THEREAFTER. During each state fiscal year, the state department may discontinue the supplemental medicaid payment established pursuant to this subsection (5) to any nursing facility provider that fails to comply with the established performance measures during the state fiscal year, and the state department may initiate the supplemental medicaid payment established pursuant to this subsection (5) to any provider who THAT

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comes into compliance with the established performance measures during the state fiscal year.

- (6) Subject to available money APPROPRIATIONS and the priority of the uses of the provider fees as established in section 25.5-6-203 (2)(b), in addition to the reimbursement rate components PAID pursuant to subsections (1) to (5) of this section, the state department shall make a supplemental medicaid payment to nursing facility providers that have SERVE residents: who have moderately to very severe mental health conditions, dementia diseases and related disabilities, or acquired brain injury as follows:
- (a) A supplemental medicaid payment shall be made to nursing facility providers that serve residents Who have severe mental health conditions that are classified at a level II by the medicaid program's preadmission screening and resident review assessment tool. The state department shall compute this payment annually as of July 1, 2009, and each July 1 thereafter, and it shall be MUST not BE less than two percent of the statewide average per diem rate for the combined rate components determined pursuant to subsections (1) to (4) of this section. BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY ADJUST THE RATE TO ENSURE ACCESS TO CARE FOR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE SEVERE MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.
- (b) A supplemental medicaid payment shall be made to nursing facility providers that serve residents With severe dementia diseases and related disabilities or acquired brain injury. The state department shall calculate the payment based upon the resident's cognitive assessment established in rules adopted by the state board. The state department shall compute this payment annually as of July 1, 2009, and each July 1

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1 thereafter, and it shall be MUST not BE less than one percent of the 2 statewide average per diem rate for the combined rate components 3 determined under PURSUANT TO subsections (1) to (4) of this section. 4 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY 5 ADJUST THE RATE TO ENSURE ACCESS TO CARE FOR RESIDENTS WITH 6 SEVERE DEMENTIA DISEASES AND RELATED DISABILITIES OR ACQUIRED 7 BRAIN INJURY. 8 (9) (b) (I) Except for changes in the number of patient days, THE 9 STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH the general fund share of the 10 aggregate statewide average of the per diem rate net of patient payment 11 pursuant to subsections (1) to (4) of this section. shall be limited to an 12 annual increase of three percent The state's share of the reimbursement 13 rate components pursuant to subsections (1) to (4) of this section may be 14 funded through the provider fee assessed pursuant to the provisions of 15 section 25.5-6-203 and any associated federal funds. Any provider fee 16 used as the state's share and all federal funds shall MUST be excluded from 17 the calculation of the general fund limitation on the annual increase 18 SHARE. For the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2009, and for each fiscal 19 year thereafter, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL CALCULATE the general 20 fund share of the aggregate statewide average per diem rate net of patient 21 payment pursuant to subsections (1) to (4) of this section shall be 22 calculated using the rates that were effective on July 1 of that fiscal year; 23 EXCEPT THAT: 24 (A) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL 25 INCREASE THE AGGREGATE STATEWIDE AVERAGE OF THE PER DIEM RATE 26 BY AT LEAST TEN PERCENT;

(B) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL

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1	INCREASE THE AGGREGATE STATEWIDE AVERAGE OF THE PER DIEM RATE
2	BY AT LEAST THREE PERCENT;
3	(C) For fiscal year 2025-26, the state department shall
4	INCREASE THE AGGREGATE STATEWIDE AVERAGE OF THE PER DIEM RATE
5	BY AT LEAST ONE AND ONE-HALF PERCENT; AND
6	(D) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, AND FOR EACH FISCAL
7	YEAR THEREAFTER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE
8	AGGREGATE STATEWIDE AVERAGE OF THE PER DIEM RATE.
9	$(I.5)\ When increasing the aggregate statewide average of$
10	THE PER DIEM RATE FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2027, THE
11	REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR A CLASS I NURSING FACILITY THAT OPERATES
12	EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY MUST BE REASONABLE AND ADEQUATE
13	TO MEET THE NURSING HOME'S COSTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CARE AND
14	SERVICES IN CONFORMITY WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS,
15	REGULATIONS, AND QUALITY AND SAFETY STANDARDS, AND MUST BE
16	BASED ON THE MOST RECENT AUDITED AND FINALIZED COST AND
17	UTILIZATION DATA AVAILABLE.
18	(c) (I) The general assembly finds that the historical growth in
19	nursing facility provider rates has significantly exceeded the rate of
20	inflation. These increases have been caused in part by the inclusion of
21	medicare costs in medicaid cost reports. The state of Colorado has an
22	interest in limiting these exceptional increases in medicaid nursing facility
23	provider rates by removing medicare part B direct costs from the
24	medicaid nursing facility provider rates and by imposing a ceiling on the
25	medicare part A ancillary costs that are included in calculating medicaid
26	nursing facility rates. No later than July 1, 2023, the state
27	DEPARTMENT SHALL INITIATE A PROCESS TO REMOVE MEDICARE COSTS

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FROM THE PROVIDER RATE SETTING BY JULY 1, 2026. THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES ESTABLISHING THE SPECIFIC METHODOLOGY USED FOR REMOVING MEDICARE COSTS.

- (II) For all rates effective on or after July 1, 1997, for each class I nursing facility provider, only such costs as are reasonable, necessary, and patient-related may be reported for reimbursement purposes. Nursing facility providers may include the level of medicare part A ancillary costs that was included and allowed in the facility's last medicaid cost report filed prior to July 1, 1997. Any subsequent increase in this amount shall be limited to either the increase in the facility's allowable medicare part A ancillary costs or the percentage increase in the cost of medical care reported in the United States department of labor bureau of labor statistics consumer price index for the same time period, whichever is lower. Part B direct costs for medicare shall be excluded from the allowable reimbursement for facilities.
- (13) (a) As a condition of receiving medicaid funds, the state department may require a nursing facility to submit any documentation necessary to ensure the state's interest in transparency, stability, and sound fiscal stewardship, including, but not limited to:
- (I) ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PREPARED BY AN INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT, FOR A FACILITY, MANAGEMENT COMPANY, AND ANY RELATED PARTY CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH A MEDICAID-CERTIFIED NURSING FACILITY, INCLUDING AUDITED AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR ANY PARENT COMPANY THAT ACCEPTS, OR WHOSE SUBSIDIARIES ACCEPT, MEDICAID PAYMENTS FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO;

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1	(II) DETAILS ON TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN RELATED PARTIES OR
2	ENTITIES THAT HAVE COMMON OWNERSHIP; AND
3	(III) OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN REAL ESTATE, MANAGEMENT
4	COMPANIES, FACILITY OPERATORS, AND ALL RELATED PARTIES.
5	(b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DETERMINE THE FORMAT FOR
6	THE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED BY EACH NURSING FACILITY.
7	(c) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH BY RULE ANY PENALTIES
8	FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIRED
9	PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (13).
10	(d) The costs associated with the financial reporting
11	REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (13), INCLUDING ANY AUDIT
12	COSTS INCURRED BY A NURSING FACILITY, ARE AN ALLOWABLE EXPENSE
13	ON THE MEDICAID COST REPORT AND MUST BE INCORPORATED AS A
14	COMPONENT OF THE OVERALL REIMBURSEMENT METHODOLOGY.
15	(14) The general assembly finds that the inflexible
16	NATURE OF STATUTORILY FIXED REIMBURSEMENT RATES IS NOT IN THE
17	BEST INTEREST OF THE STATE OF COLORADO. THEREFORE, THE STATE
18	DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A TRANSITION PLAN TO
19	REGULATE NURSING FACILITY REIMBURSEMENT AIMED AT IMPROVING THE
20	HEALTH AND SAFETY OF RESIDENTS, PROMOTING INNOVATION AND
21	IMPROVED INFECTION CONTROL EFFORTS, IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE,
22	AND PROMOTING INNOVATION IN COLORADO NURSING FACILITIES. AS PART
23	OF THIS PROCESS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL:
24	(a) No later than July 1, 2026, define "nursing home
25	REIMBURSEMENT" THROUGH RULES PROMULGATED BY THE STATE BOARD
26	AND PROVIDE PAYMENTS TO NURSING FACILITIES CONSISTENT WITH THE
27	PROMULGATED RULES;

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1	(b) ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS REGULARLY TO SEEK INPUT ON
2	ANY PROPOSED METHODOLOGY CHANGES AND ENSURE THE METHODOLOGY
3	IS REASONABLE AND ADEQUATE TO MEET THE COSTS OF AN EFFICIENTLY
4	AND ECONOMICALLY OPERATED NURSING FACILITY THAT PROVIDES CARE
5	AND SERVICES IN CONFORMITY WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL
6	LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND QUALITY AND SAFETY STANDARDS BASED ON
7	THE MOST RECENT AUDIT AND FINALIZED COST AND UTILIZATION DATA
8	AVAILABLE; AND
9	(c) From November 1, 2023, to November 1, 2026, submit an
10	ANNUAL REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
11	ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS DESCRIBED IN
12	THIS SUBSECTION (14), INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM:
13	(I) RECORDS OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT;
14	(II) CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT
15	ACTIVITIES;
16	(III) ISSUES REGARDING PAYMENT EQUITY AND ACCESS TO CARE
17	COORDINATION; AND
18	(IV) EXPECTED BUDGETARY IMPACTS OF ANY METHODOLOGY
19	CHANGE.
20	(15)(a) EACH NURSING FACILITY THAT RECEIVES MEDICAID FUNDS
21	SHALL DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A PLAN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT
22	MEETS STATE DEPARTMENT STANDARDS AND DEMONSTRATES HOW THE
23	NURSING FACILITY WILL:
24	(I) IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE NURSING FACILITY'S
25	RESIDENTS, INCLUDING INFECTION CONTROL AND STAFFING;
26	(II) INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE;
27	(III) IMPROVE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, INCLUDING

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1	OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF BUSINESS LINES AND
2	STABILIZATION OF REVENUE STREAMS; AND
3	(IV) PROMOTE INNOVATION TO MEET THE EMERGING NEEDS OF
4	INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND AGING AND OLDER ADULTS.
5	(b) THE STATE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES IMPLEMENTING
6	THIS SUBSECTION (15) .
7	(16) Subsections 1 to 9 of this section and this subsection
8	(16) ARE REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026.
9	SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-6-203, amend
10	(1)(c) as follows:
11	25.5-6-203. Nursing facilities - provider fees - federal waiver
12	- fund created - rules - repeal. (1) (c) (I) In accordance with the
13	redistributive method set forth in 42 CFR 433.68 (e)(1) and (e)(2), the
14	state department shall seek a waiver from the broad-based provider fees
15	requirement or the uniform provider fees requirement, or both, to exclude
16	nursing facility providers from the provider fee. The state department
17	shall exempt the following nursing facility providers to obtain federal
18	approval and minimize the financial impact on nursing facility providers:
19	(I) (A) A facility operated as a continuing care retirement
20	community that provides a continuum of services by one operational
21	entity providing independent living services, assisted living services, and
22	skilled nursing care on a single, contiguous campus. Assisted living
23	services include an assisted living residence as defined in section
24	25-27-102 C.R.S., or that provides assisted living services on-site,
25	twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.
26	(H) (B) A skilled nursing facility owned and operated by the state;
27	(III) (C) A nursing facility that is a distinct part of a facility that

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1	is licensed as a general acute care hospital; and
2	(IV) (D) A facility that has forty-five or fewer licensed beds.
3	(II) No later than July $1,2026$, the state department shall
4	PROMULGATE RULES MAINTAINING THE EXEMPTIONS IDENTIFIED IN THIS
5	SUBSECTION (1)(c) IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE FINANCIAL IMPACT ON
6	NURSING FACILITY PROVIDERS.
7	(III) This subsection (1)(c) is repealed, effective July 1,
8	2028.
9	SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-6-208, add (7)
10	as follows:
11	25.5-6-208. Nursing facility provider reimbursement - rules -
12	definition - repeal. (7) This section is repealed, effective July 1,
13	2026.
14	SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-6-210, amend
15	(10); repeal (1)(a), (1)(b), (6), (7), (8), and (9); and add (1)(c) and (1)(d)
16	as follows:
17	25.5-6-210. Additional supplemental payments - nursing
18	facilities - funding methodology - reporting requirement - rules -
19	repeal. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary
20	and subject to available appropriations, for the purposes of reimbursing
21	a medicaid-certified class I nursing facility provider, the state department
22	shall issue additional supplemental payments to nursing facility providers
23	that meet the requirements outlined in this section and the state
24	department's subsequent regulation as follows:
25	(a) For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, funds appropriated by the
26	general assembly are for the purposes of supporting nursing facility
2.7	providers experiencing increased staffing costs resulting from the

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COVID-19 pandemic, nursing facility providers with high medicaid utilization rates, or nursing facility providers currently serving individuals with complex needs.

- (b) Payments made in addition to those specified in subsection (1)(a) of this section may also be made to nursing facility providers that accept new admissions of medicaid-enrollment individuals with complex needs.
- (c) A PAYMENT TO A NURSING FACILITY WITH DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH MEDICAID UTILIZATION OR GEOGRAPHICALLY CRITICAL TO ENSURING ACCESS TO CARE. IN DETERMINING QUALIFYING FACILITIES FOR THIS PAYMENT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER ANY ACCESS TO CARE IMPACTS TO INDIVIDUALS NOT COVERED BY MEDICAID, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BENEFICIARIES, INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT HEALTH-CARE COVERAGE, AND INDIVIDUALS PENDING MEDICAID COVERAGE.
 - (d) A PAYMENT TO A NURSING FACILITY ADMITTING COMPASSIONATE RELEASE INDIVIDUALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS WHO NEED ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO ENSURE ACCESS TO CARE.
 - (6) To receive an additional payment pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section, a nursing facility provider shall work with a hospital to facilitate the timely discharge of medicaid members from the hospital into the nursing facility, serve medicaid members with complex needs, or accept compassionate release individuals from the department of corrections.
 - (7) On or before November 1, 2022, the state department shall engage with stakeholders and submit a report and recommendations to the

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joint budget committee, the health and human services committee of the		
senate, and the public and behavioral health and human services		
committee of the house of representatives, or any successor committees,		
concerning suggested changes for permanently changing medicaid		
nursing facility provider reimbursement policy in Colorado to prioritize		
quality, sustainability, and sound fiscal stewardship to avoid further		
one-time cash infusions. The report must include changes that can be		
made to affirm a nursing facility provider's commitment to accountability		
and must include, at a minimum:		
(a) Infection control and culture change practices, including:		
(I) Single occupancy rooms;		
(II) Smaller facility models; and		
(III) Innovative facility models;		
(b) Behavioral health needs;		
(c) Practices regarding individuals who have complex needs		
requiring hospital discharge;		
(d) Practices regarding care and services to compassionate release		
individuals from the department of corrections;		
(e) Options for diversified funding streams to ensure continuity of		
services;		
(f) Competitive staffing practices;		
(g) The timeline and costs associated with implementing the		
recommended changes, including the impact on nursing facility provider		
rates; and		
(h) Identification of the amount of supplemental payments to each		
nursing facility provider and the outcome evaluation required pursuant to		
subsection (3) of this section.		

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1	(8) The state department shall meet with the following
2	stakeholders, at a minimum, to seek input on any proposed reimbursement
3	methodology changes and report as required by this section:
4	(a) A representative from an urban nursing facility provider;
5	(b) A representative from a rural nursing facility provider;
6	(c) A representative from a nursing facility trade organization;
7	(d) A representative from a nursing facility with a high medicaid
8	utilization rate; and
9	(e) A representative from a nursing facility that serves individuals
10	with complex needs.
11	(9) The state board shall promulgate any rules necessary to
12	implement this section.
13	(10) This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2023 2026.
14	SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-48-102, amend
15	(4) as follows:
16	25-48-102. Definitions. As used in this article 48, unless the
17	context otherwise requires:
18	(4) "Health-care provider" or "provider" means a person who is
19	licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized or permitted by law
20	to administer health care or dispense medication in the ordinary course of
21	business or practice of a profession. The term includes a health-care
22	facility, including a long-term care facility as defined in section
23	25-3-103.7 (1)(f.3) and a continuing care retirement community as
24	described in section 25.5-6-203 (1)(c)(I), C.R.S. (1)(c)(I)(A).
25	SECTION 6. Appropriation. (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal
26	year, \$30,509,457 is appropriated to the department of health care policy
27	and financing. This appropriation is from the general fund, which is

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subject to the "(M)" notation as defined in the annual general appropriation act for the same fiscal year. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for medical and long-term care services for Medicaid eligible individuals.

(2) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, the general assembly

anticipates that the department of health care policy and financing will receive \$31,754,740 in federal funds for medical and long-term care services for Medicaid eligible individuals to implement this act. The appropriation in subsection (1) of this section is based on the assumption that the department will receive this amount of federal funds.

SECTION 7. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

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