



2021 Bill Highlights

As of 5/3/2021

HB 1421 & SB 1636 – Florida KidCare Program Eligibility

Sponsor: Representative Bartleman (D- Weston) & Senator Ausley (D- Quincy)

Outcome: HB 1421 and SB 1636 died in their first committee.

Target Population: Children and families living below 200% of the federal poverty level, insurance providers.

Summary: Eliminates penalties for voluntary cancellation under the Medikids and Florida KidCare program that include waiting periods of 30 days for reinstatement of coverage upon voluntary cancellation for nonpayment of premiums. Eliminates the creation of enrollment criteria that include penalties or waiting periods for reinstatement of coverage. Eliminates circumstances where children are not eligible to receive Title XXI funded assistance for health benefits coverage under Florida Kidcare. Eliminates age requirement for determined eligibility for the Medicaid program, a child who is eligible for Medicaid can have coverage for 12 months without redetermination of eligibility.

How the Bills Differ:

- The bills are identical

Impact: Florida KidCare is the umbrella term that encompasses all Florida government-sponsored children's health insurance programs. Florida KidCare is designed to match families with one of the four Florida KidCare programs for free or low cost health insurance -- Medicaid, MediKids, Florida Healthy Kids, or the Children's Medical Services Managed Care Plan. Florida children from birth to the age of 18 are eligible for coverage under the Florida KidCare program. There are approximately 2.4 million Florida children enrolled.

In 2019, Florida was ranked 8th highest in the nation for children without health insurance. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, over 73% of those uninsured had one or more full time workers in the family and almost 34% had a family income at 200-399% of the FPL. Almost 74% named coverage not being affordable as the reason for not being insured. Children of color are more likely to be uninsured than their White peers. Lack of health insurance means families are more likely to avoid receiving medical services when needed. A child's healthy development and early learning is compromised when necessary medical services like routine check-ups or more costly procedures are not financially accessible.

Children need access to health care services and this increase in income eligibility allows more families to participate in the Florida KidCare program. The Children's Campaign supports legislation that will help vulnerable children have access to the health services they need.

Effective Date: July 1st, 2021

