

1 SB355
2 184630-1
3 By Senators Beasley, Dunn, Ross, Coleman-Madison, Sanders,
4 Figures, Singleton and Smitherman
5 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund
6 First Read: 04-APR-17

2
3
4
5
6
7
8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would expand the Medicaid program
9 to provide assistance to all persons for whom
10 federal matching funds are available to the state
11 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
12 Act.

13
14 A BILL
15 TO BE ENTITLED
16 AN ACT

17
18 Relating to Medicaid; to expand the program to
19 provide assistance to certain persons; to direct the Alabama
20 Medicaid Agency to implement the expansion; to direct other
21 state agencies and entities to provide certain assistance; and
22 to provide for appropriations for adequate funding.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. The Legislature finds all of the
25 following:

26 (1) The residents of this state are suffering
27 because of their lack of access to health care.

1 (2) Broad access to health care leads to preventive
2 care, which produces healthier families, a healthier
3 workforce, and an all around healthier state.

4 (3) The federal government started paying 100
5 percent of the Medicaid expansion in 2014 under the Patient
6 Protection and Affordable Care Act. The federal government's
7 share will drop to 95 percent in 2017, and ultimately to 90
8 percent in 2020.

9 (4) With the expansion of Medicaid, hundreds of
10 thousands of Alabamians will have access to critical
11 preventive care versus acute care for the first time in their
12 lives.

13 (5) Expansion of Medicaid will result in reduced
14 state spending on health care related services to those
15 previously uninsured residents with incomes below 138 percent
16 of the federal poverty limit.

17 (6) In addition to enhancing access to health care,
18 expansion of Medicaid would promote revenue and economic
19 activity in this state, resulting in the preservation and
20 creation of jobs.

21 (7) The Alabama Health Care Improvement Task Force,
22 created on April 6, 2015 by Executive Order No. 4, unanimously
23 recommended to the Governor to close Alabama's health coverage
24 gap, which the expansion of Medicaid would achieve.

25 Section 2. (a) The Medicaid program shall provide
26 assistance to all persons who apply and who are determined to
27 be eligible for assistance and for whom federal matching funds

1 are available to the state under the "Patient Protection and
2 Affordable Care Act," Public Law 111-148, March 23, 2010, as
3 amended by the "Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act
4 of 2010," Public Law 111-152, March 30, 2010.

5 (b) The Alabama Medicaid Agency is hereby directed
6 to take any and all steps necessary to implement the Medicaid
7 expansion program as provided for in subsection (a) and shall
8 be the lead agency for the implementation. The Alabama
9 Medicaid Agency is authorized to seek assistance from any
10 state or federal agencies or entities to implement the
11 program, and all state agencies or entities shall provide
12 assistance as requested by the agency.

13 (c) The Legislature shall annually appropriate
14 adequate funding to the Alabama Medicaid Agency for the
15 purpose of implementing and operating the Medicaid expansion
16 program pursuant to this act.

17 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
18 first day of the third month following its passage and
19 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.