

House Bill 340 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE) (AM)

By: Representatives Richardson of the 19<sup>th</sup>, Golick of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Ehrhart of the 36<sup>th</sup>, Keen of the 179<sup>th</sup>, and Burkhalter of the 50<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 49-5-273 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the creation and operation of the PeachCare for Kids Program, so as to revise income eligibility requirements; to provide for continued eligibility of certain existing program participants; to provide that health care services under the PeachCare for Kids Program are substantially the same as under the state employees' health insurance plan; to provide for optional dental and vision coverage; to require the Department of Community Health to contract for eligibility verification of all participants; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Code Section 49-5-273 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the creation and operation of the PeachCare for Kids Program, is amended by revising subsections (a), (c), and (l) as follows:

"(a)(1) There is created the PeachCare for Kids Program to provide health care benefits for children in families with income below 235 200 percent of the federal poverty level. On and after June 1, 2007, children ~~Children~~ from birth through 18 years of age in families with family incomes below 235 200 percent of the federal poverty level, unless such threshold is revised in accordance with this paragraph, and who are not eligible for medical assistance under Medicaid shall be eligible for the program, to be administered by the department pursuant to federal law and subject to availability of funding. The board shall be authorized, in its sole discretion, to revise the threshold amount of 200 percent of the federal poverty level provided for in this paragraph to an amount between and including 185 to 225 percent.

(2) Children in families with income between 200 and 235 percent of the federal poverty level who were enrolled in the program on May 31, 2007, shall remain enrolled in the program so long as eligibility requirements continue to be met, including evidence of

H. B. 340 (SUB)

United States citizenship and a family income that does not increase to an amount exceeding 235 percent of the federal poverty level."

"(c) The program shall offer substantially the same health care services available to dependent children under the state employees' health insurance plan established pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45. Georgia's Medicaid plan, but coverage Coverage for ~~such~~ services under the program shall not be provided by an expansion of eligibility for medical assistance under Medicaid. However, the program shall exclude nonemergency transportation and targeted case management services. The department shall utilize appropriate medical management and utilization control procedures necessary to manage care effectively and shall prospectively limit enrollment in the program and modify the health care services benefits when the department has reason to believe the cost of such enrollment or services may exceed the availability of funding. The department shall offer optional dental and vision coverage to program participants for an additional premium over and above the premiums established pursuant to subsection (e) of this Code section."

"(l) The department, through the Department of Administrative Services or any other appropriate entity, may contract for any or all of the following: the collection of premiums, processing of applications, ~~verification of eligibility~~, outreach, data services, and evaluation, if such contracting achieves administrative or service cost efficiency. The department shall enter into one or more contracts with an appropriate entity or entities for the verification of eligibility of all participants in the program with regard to verification of income and United States citizenship. The department, and other state agencies as appropriate, shall provide necessary information to any entity which has contracted with the department for services related to the administration of the program upon request. For purposes of compliance with Code Section 34-8-125, a request by any entity which has contracted with the department for services related to the administration of the program shall be deemed to be a request by a responsible official of the department and considered to be a request by the department."

## SECTION 2.

This Act shall become effective on June 1, 2007.

## SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.