

House Bill 1228

By: Representatives Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, Trammell of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Robichaux of the 48<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to medical assistance generally, so as to authorize the Department of Community  
3 Health to submit a 1115 waiver request for purposes of addressing coverage for the uninsured  
4 up to a maximum of 138 percent of federal poverty level; to provide for legislative findings;  
5 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

10 (A) The sustained unemployment numbers in Georgia are unknown;

11 (B) The number of Georgians incurring a permanent decrease in lung capacity is  
12 unknown;

13 (C) The long-term impact to the work capacity of affected Georgians is unknown; and

14 (D) The number of uninsured Georgians could increase dramatically; and

15 (2) It is vital that the state has flexibility in our laws to provide for the health care needs  
16 of our citizens.

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
19 medical assistance generally, is amended by revising Code Section 49-4-142.3, relating to  
20 waiver request to federal government on income threshold for Medicare and Medicaid  
21 services, as follows:

22 "49-4-142.3.

23 The department shall be authorized to submit a waiver request, on or before ~~June 30, 2020,~~  
24 December 31, 2020, to the United States Department of Health and Human Services  
25 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pursuant to Section 1115 of the federal Social

26 Security Act, which may include an increase in the income threshold up to a maximum of  
27 ~~100~~ 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Further, upon approval of the waiver, the  
28 department shall be authorized to take all necessary steps to implement the terms and  
29 conditions of the waiver without any further legislative action."

30

**SECTION 3.**

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.