

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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SENATE BILL 721

Short Title: NC Health Choice/No Waiting Period. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Purcell; Albertson, Kinnaird, Lee, Lucas, and Martin of Guilford.

Referred to: Health Care.

March 29, 2001

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REPEAL THE WAITING PERIOD FOR COVERAGE UNDER THE
3 NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN
4 (NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH CHOICE).

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 108A-70.18 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 108A-70.18. Definitions.**

8 As used in this Part, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the term:

- 9 (1) 'Comprehensive health coverage' means creditable health coverage as
10 defined under Title XXI.
- 11 (2) 'Family income' has the same meaning as used in determining
12 eligibility for the Medical Assistance Program.
- 13 (3) 'FPL' or 'federal poverty level' means the federal poverty guidelines
14 established by the United States Department of Health and Human
15 Services, as revised each April 1.
- 16 (4) 'Medical Assistance Program' means the State Medical Assistance
17 Program established under Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 108A of the
18 General Statutes.
- 19 (5) 'Program' means The Health Insurance Program for Children
20 established in this Part.
- 21 (6) 'State Plan' means the State Child Health Plan for the State Children's
22 Health Insurance Program established under Title XXI.
- 23 (7) 'Title XXI' means Title XXI of the Social Security Act, as added by
24 Pub. L. 105-33, 111 Stat. 552, codified in scattered sections of 42
25 U.S.C. (1997).
- 26 (8) 'Uninsured' means the applicant for Program benefits is not covered
27 under any private or employer-sponsored comprehensive health

1 ~~insurance plan on the date of enrollment. and was not covered under~~
2 ~~any private or employer sponsored comprehensive health insurance~~
3 ~~plan for 60 days immediately preceding the date of application. The~~
4 ~~waiting periods required under this subdivision shall be waived if:~~

5 a. ~~The child has been enrolled in Medicaid and has lost Medicaid~~
6 ~~eligibility;~~

7 b. ~~The child has lost health care benefits due to cessation of a~~
8 ~~nonprofit organization program that provides health care~~
9 ~~benefits to low income children;~~

10 e. ~~The child has lost employer sponsored comprehensive health~~
11 ~~care coverage due to termination of employment, cessation by~~
12 ~~the employer of employer sponsored health coverage, or~~
13 ~~cessation of the employer's business; or~~

14 d. ~~Health insurance benefits available to the family of a special~~
15 ~~needs child have been terminated due to a long term disability~~
16 ~~or a substantial reduction in or limitation of lifetime medical~~
17 ~~benefits or benefit category. As used in this paragraph, "special~~
18 ~~needs child" has the definition applied in G.S. 108A-70.23(a)."~~

19 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.