

SENATE, No. 1242

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Requires inmate to participate in Medicaid enrollment session 60 days prior to release.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning Medicaid enrollment for inmates prior to
2 release, and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. An inmate of a State prison or county correctional facility
8 shall, at least 60 days prior to the release from the State prison or
9 county correctional facility, participate in a Medicaid enrollment
10 session. During the session, county welfare agency staff or
11 designated State prison or county correctional facility personnel,
12 who have received training from the Department of Human Services
13 regarding the screening and enrollment process for Medicaid, shall
14 provide the inmate with assistance, either in person or via
15 telephone, in completing a Medicaid application and shall ensure
16 that the inmate's application is submitted to the Department of
17 Human Services or another Medicaid eligibility determination
18 agency for processing.

19 b. An inmate who opts out of a Medicaid enrollment session, as
20 provided for in subsection a. of this section, shall indicate such a
21 decision in writing, in a manner and format determined by the
22 Commissioner of Corrections. A State prison or county correctional
23 facility staff member shall provide guidance to an inmate who opts
24 out of a Medicaid enrollment session, both verbally and in a written
25 format, of the health care benefits provided under Medicaid, as well
26 as the process to apply for Medicaid, should the inmate decide to
27 enroll following release from the State prison or county correctional
28 facility.

29 c. As used in this section, "Medicaid" means the program
30 established pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.).

31
32 2. This act shall take effect shall take immediately.

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35 STATEMENT

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37 This bill implements certain recommendations included in the 2019
38 New Jersey Reentry Services Commission Report entitled "Barriers,
39 Best Practices, and Action Items for Improving Reentry Services."

40 Specifically, this bill requires an inmate of a State prison or
41 county correctional facility, at least 60 days prior to the release
42 from the State prison or county correctional facility, to participate
43 in a Medicaid enrollment session. During the session, county
44 welfare agency staff or designated State prison or county
45 correctional facility personnel, who have received training from the
46 Department of Human Services regarding the screening and
47 enrollment process for Medicaid, are to provide the inmate with
48 assistance, either in person or via telephone, in completing a

1 Medicaid application and to ensure that the inmate's application is
2 submitted to the Department of Human Services or another
3 Medicaid eligibility determination agency for processing.

4 Under the bill, an inmate who opts out of a Medicaid enrollment
5 session is required to indicate such a decision in writing, in a
6 manner and format determined by the Commissioner of Corrections.
7 Furthermore, a State prison or county correctional facility staff
8 member is required to provide guidance to an inmate who opts out
9 of a Medicaid enrollment session, both verbally and in a written
10 format, of the health care benefits provided under Medicaid, as well
11 as the process to apply for Medicaid, should the inmate decide to
12 enroll following release from the State prison or county correctional
13 facility.