

7552

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

April 14, 2009

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Introduced by M. of A. ORTIZ, GREENE, MILLMAN, ESPAILLAT, V. LOPEZ,  
J. RIVERA, COLTON, PHEFFER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO,  
DESTITO, EDDINGTON, PERRY, RAMOS, ROBINSON, SWEENEY, TOWNS, WEISENBERG  
-- read once and referred to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT in relation to increasing access to medicines for needy seniors  
through the outreach to and enrollment of eligible Medicare benefici-  
aries in the Medicaid program

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "medicaid  
2     outreach and enrollment for qualifying medicare beneficiaries program".  
3     S 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds and  
4     declares that almost thirty percent of medicare enrollees have no cover-  
5     age for pharmaceuticals. Of that number nearly twenty-five percent are  
6     living below the federal poverty level. Under the medicaid program the  
7     state of New York provides pharmaceutical coverage for qualifying indi-  
8     viduals. There are many medicare beneficiaries in New York that qualify  
9     for medicaid services but are not enrolled and participating in the  
10    program. The legislature further finds that the medicaid outreach and  
11    enrollment for qualifying medicare beneficiaries program will identify  
12    those medicare enrollees who are eligible for medicaid services, but are  
13    not participating, through outreach initiatives.  
14    S 3. Medicaid outreach and enrollment program. There is hereby estab-  
15    lished the medicaid outreach and enrollment program ("program"). The  
16    program shall be administered by the department of health. The depart-  
17    ment of health shall implement and administer the program through the  
18    development of outreach initiatives to identify medicaid-eligible medi-  
19    care beneficiaries who are not participating in the medicaid program and  
20    to promote and encourage enrollment of these eligible individuals in the  
21    medicaid program. Initiatives may include, but shall not be limited to,

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 mailings, advertisements, public service announcements, literature  
2 dissemination and community outreach.

3 S 4. The department of health shall report to the legislature on an  
4 annual basis commencing one year after the implementation of the  
5 provisions of the program. The report shall include the baseline number  
6 of medicare beneficiaries who were medicaid eligible at the beginning of  
7 the previous year; the number of medicaid-eligible beneficiaries who  
8 were medicare beneficiaries who were targeted via the program; the  
9 number of medicaid-eligible medicare beneficiaries who enrolled in medi-  
10 caid in a given year and any information of enrollment via the program;  
11 a description of the outreach initiatives utilized by the program; and a  
12 detailed accounting of how funding was utilized.

13 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.