S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

481

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

(PREFILED)

January 5, 2011

Introduced by Sen. DIAZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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 beneficiaries in the Medicaid program

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "medicaid outreach and enrollment for qualifying medicare beneficiaries program".

S 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds and declares that almost thirty percent of medicare enrollees have no coverage for pharmaceuticals. Of that number nearly twenty-five percent are living below the federal poverty level. Under the medicaid program the state of New York provides pharmaceutical coverage for qualifying individuals. There are many medicare beneficiaries in New York that qualify for medicaid services but are not enrolled and participating in the program. The legislature further finds that the medicaid outreach and enrollment for qualifying medicare beneficiaries program will identify those medicare enrollees who are eligible for medicaid services, but are not participating, through outreach initiatives.

S 3. Medicaid outreach and enrollment program. There is hereby established the medicaid outreach and enrollment program ("program"). The program shall be administered by the department of health. The department of health shall implement and administer the program through the development of outreach initiatives to identify medicaid-eligible medicare beneficiaries who are not participating in the medicaid program and to promote and encourage enrollment of these eligible individuals in the medicaid program. Initiatives may include, but shall not be limited to, mailings, advertisements, public service announcements, literature dissemination and community outreach.

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

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

S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.