STATE OF NEW YORK

4178

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 1, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. RODRIGUEZ, RA, STECK -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. FRIEND, McDONOUGH -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology pilot program; and to amend the social services law, in relation to conforming medical assistance identification with the Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology program; and making an appropriation therefor

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 2-C to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2-C

MEDICAID IDENTIFICATION AND ANTI-FRAUD BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM

Section 295. Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology pilot program.
296. Definitions.
297. Biometric technology use requirement.
298. Rules and regulations.

§ 295. Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology pilot program. There is hereby established the Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology pilot program.

§ 296. Definitions. As used in this article:

1. "Biometric technology" means technology that measures and analyzes biological data, including but not limited to DNA, finger imaging, vascular patterns, eye retinas and irises, voice patterns, facial patterns and hand measurements, for authentication purposes.

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

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2. "Biometric verification device" means a device capable of using biometric verification technology to verify the identity of a Medicaid recipient or provider.

§ 297. Biometric technology use requirement. 1. The department, in consultation with the office of the Medicaid inspector general and the office of the attorney general, shall develop a request for proposals to implement a program authorizing the use of biometric technology for the purposes of patient and provider identification and for use as an anti-fraud application in the Medicaid program.

2. Such request for proposals shall include at a minimum that (a) Medicaid recipients and providers shall provide biometric proof of their identity along with other information deemed necessary by the commissioner.

(b) Such program will be capable of storing biometric markers and a log of doctor and pharmacy visits for each service billed to the Medicaid program.

(c) Medicaid identification shall be issued to and accepted by the admitting staff of the health care facility.

(d) Medicaid recipients shall be required to provide biometric proof of identity at the time of each visit to a doctor's office or clinic at the point of actually being seen by the doctor or clinical staff, and shall again provide proof of identity upon completion of care or services.

(e) Provisions shall be included for emergency services or prescriptions and alternate identification methods for Medicaid recipients physically or mentally unable to provide biometric identification.

(f) Fraud prevention markers incorporated into software which shall be used to operate the hardware component of the biometric technology shall prevent and/or reject the payment by the Medicaid program and alert the service provider at point of service if fraud or potential fraud is identified by the biometric technology system.

(g) Provisions shall be included to ensure that Medicaid recipients have access to emergency health services in the case of a biometric technology system malfunction or fraud detection alarm.

(h) Evaluation and selection of an identity credentialing system that addresses the requirements of Medicaid beneficiaries and providers shall be based on the following criteria: security, privacy, usability, performance, hygiene, biometric capture and storage requirements, and interoperability.

(i) Such program shall be operational within twelve months of program approval and will operate for three years.

3. Such request for proposals shall set forth requirements as to the results and goals to be achieved, rather than specific technical methods or systems, to allow consideration of the widest possible choice of available technology.

4. Such request for proposals shall require: (a) that the program shall be revenue neutral from inception, whereby any program costs are at least offset by state Medicaid savings, and shall have as a primary goal reduction of Medicaid expenditures through elimination of fraud and abuse; and (b) that the program shall be cost neutral to providers from inception, whereby any provider costs are at least offset by provider savings, and shall have as a primary goal provider savings through increased efficiencies.

5. (a) Such request for proposals for the implementation of a program for biometric technology use shall be published on or before January

fifteenth, two thousand twenty-three, and shall provide that proposals shall be opened on or before March first, two thousand twenty-three.

(b) The commissioner shall report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the chairs of the senate and assembly health committees on or before March thirtieth, two thousand twenty-three with regard to the progress made in the development of criteria for a program of biometric identification and of the implementation of such program.

6. The commissioner shall, upon submission of satisfactory evidence of compliance with the provisions of this title, approve two Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology pilot programs, one to be located in an upstate hospital and one to be located in a downstate hospital.

7. Each hospital will be appropriated three hundred thousand dollars to assist in enabling the Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology pilot program.

§ 298. Rules and regulations. The commissioner is authorized and directed to promulgate such rules and regulations as he or she may deem necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this article.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 367-b of the social services law, as added by chapter 639 of the laws of 1976, is amended to read as follows:

1. The department, in consultation with the commissioner of health, shall design and implement a statewide medical assistance information and payments system for the purpose of providing individual and aggregate data to social services districts to assist them in making basic management decisions, to the department and other state agencies to assist in the administration of the medical assistance program, and to the governor and the legislature as may be necessary to assist in making major administrative and policy decisions affecting such program. Such system shall be designed so as to be capable of the following:

a. receiving and processing information relating to the eligibility of each person applying for medical assistance and of issuing a medical assistance identification card, and when available utilizing the biometric identification issued by the department of health, conforming to the requirements set forth in the Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology pilot program established pursuant to article two-C of the public health law to persons determined by a social services official to be eligible for such assistance;

b. activating medical assistance identification by requiring an applicant receiving such identification from the department to have it verified at a social services district office in the social services district in which the applicant resides;

c. receiving and processing information relating to each qualified provider of medical assistance furnishing care, services or supplies for which claims for payment are made pursuant to this title;

[~~c.~~] d. receiving and processing, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, all claims for medical care, services and supplies, and making payments for valid claims to providers of medical care, services and supplies on behalf of social services districts;

[~~d.~~] e. maintaining information necessary to allow the department, consistent with the powers and duties of the department of health, to review the appropriateness, scope and duration of medical care, services and supplies provided to any eligible person pursuant to this chapter; and

[~~e.~~] f. initiating implementation of such a system for the district comprising the city of New York, in a manner compatible with expansion

of such system to districts other than the district comprising the city of New York.

§ 3. The sum of six hundred thousand dollars ($600,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of health out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the Medicaid identification and anti-fraud biometric technology pilot program, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the department of health in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.