

**Senate File 2251 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2251  
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3140)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to eligibility for pregnant women and infants  
2 under the Medicaid program, and including effective date  
3 provisions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 249A.3, subsection 1, paragraphs h and l,  
2 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

3 *h.* Is a woman who, while pregnant, meets eligibility  
4 requirements for assistance under the federal Social Security  
5 Act, section 1902(1), and continues to meet the requirements  
6 except for income. The woman is eligible to receive assistance  
7 until ~~sixty days~~ twelve months after the date pregnancy ends.

8 *l.* (1) Is an infant whose family income is not more than  
9 two hundred fifteen percent of the federal poverty level,  
10 as defined by the most recently revised income guidelines  
11 published by the United States department of health and human  
12 services.

13 (2) Is a pregnant woman ~~or infant~~ whose family income while  
14 pregnant is at or below ~~three~~ two hundred fifteen percent of  
15 the federal poverty level, as defined by the most recently  
16 revised poverty income guidelines published by the United  
17 States department of health and human services, if otherwise  
18 eligible.

19 Sec. 2. MEDICAID — PREGNANT WOMEN — CONTINUOUS POSTPARTUM  
20 COVERAGE — STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS. The department of health  
21 and human services shall submit a Medicaid state plan amendment  
22 to the centers for Medicare and Medicaid services of the United  
23 States department of health and human services for approval in  
24 accordance with sections 9812 and 9822 of the federal American  
25 Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2, as amended by  
26 section 5113 of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act  
27 of 2023, to provide twelve months of continuous postpartum  
28 eligibility under the Medicaid program to a pregnant woman  
29 whose family income while pregnant is at or below two hundred  
30 fifteen percent of the federal poverty level for the household  
31 size, beginning January 1, 2025. The department of health and  
32 human services shall also submit a children's health insurance  
33 program state plan amendment to the centers for Medicare and  
34 Medicaid services of the United States department of health and  
35 human services to update infant eligibility consistent with the

1 provisions of this Act, beginning January 1, 2025.

2 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following, being deemed of  
3 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment:

4 The section of this Act directing the department of health  
5 and human services to submit state plan amendments to the  
6 centers for Medicare and Medicaid services of the United States  
7 department of health and human services.

8 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. The following takes effect January  
9 1, 2025:

10 The section of this Act amending section 249A.3, subsection  
11 1, paragraphs "h" and "l".

12 EXPLANATION

13 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
14 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

15 This bill amends provisions relating to income eligibility  
16 levels for pregnant women and infants under the Medicaid  
17 program and provides for the extension of postpartum coverage  
18 from 60 days to 12 months.

19 Code section 249A.3(1)(h) provides Medicaid eligibility for  
20 a woman who while pregnant meets federally required eligibility  
21 requirements and continues to meet those requirements, except  
22 for income, to receive assistance until 60 days after the  
23 pregnancy ends. Provisions of the federal American Rescue Plan  
24 Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) provide the option to states to submit  
25 a state plan amendment, effective for a five-year period,  
26 to provide postpartum Medicaid coverage for 12 months after  
27 pregnancy ends. A provision under the federal Consolidated  
28 Appropriations Act of 2023 removed the five-year limitation  
29 period for the state plan amendment. The bill amends Code  
30 section 249A.3(1)(h) to extend postpartum coverage from 60 days  
31 to 12 months after pregnancy ends.

32 Code section 249A.3(1)(l)(1) provides a separate basis for  
33 Medicaid eligibility for an infant whose income is not more  
34 than 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). The bill  
35 amends this provision to provide eligibility for an infant

1 whose family income is not more than 215 percent of the FPL.

2 Under Code section 249A.3(1)(1)(2), a pregnant woman or  
3 infant whose family income is at or below 300 percent of the  
4 FPL, if otherwise eligible, is eligible for Medicaid. The bill  
5 amends this provision to provide eligibility for a pregnant  
6 woman whose family income while pregnant is at or below 215  
7 percent of the FPL, if otherwise eligible.

8 The bill requires HHS to submit a Medicaid state plan  
9 amendment to the centers for Medicare and Medicaid services  
10 of the United States department of health and human services  
11 (CMS) for approval in accordance with the provisions in federal  
12 law to provide 12 months of continuous postpartum eligibility  
13 under the Medicaid program to a pregnant woman whose family  
14 income while pregnant is at or below 215 percent of the federal  
15 poverty level for the household size, beginning January 1,  
16 2025. The bill also requires HHS to submit a children's  
17 health insurance program state plan amendment to CMS to update  
18 infant eligibility consistent with the provisions of the bill,  
19 beginning January 1, 2025.

20 The section of the bill directing HHS to submit state plan  
21 amendments to the federal government for approval takes effect  
22 upon enactment; and the section of the bill amending Code  
23 provisions relating to Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women  
24 and infants takes effect January 1, 2025.