

CHAPTER 155**(SB 180)**

AN ACT relating to access to primary health care for the uninsured.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 211 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *To the extent possible with available funds, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall establish and operate the Kentucky Physicians Care Program to assist low income, uninsured individuals in accessing primary health care services provided by volunteer health care practitioners and pharmaceutical drugs donated by pharmaceutical companies.*
- (2) *The program may access networks of practitioners, pharmacies, and pharmaceutical companies that are maintained by entities that recruit volunteers and donations, such as Health Kentucky, Inc., to locate necessary health care services for eligible applicants.*
- (3) *The program shall:*
 - (a) *Operate and maintain a professionally staffed toll-free hotline information and referral service for individuals seeking primary care;*
 - (b) *Refer individuals seeking health care services to the Department for Community Based Services or other enrollment sites approved by the cabinet for eligibility determination;*
 - (c) *Refer individuals determined to be eligible to available health care service providers; and*
 - (d) *Maintain a confidential record of all referrals.*
- (4) *The program may:*
 - (a) *Create temporary volunteer advisory committees to provide input on program operations and efficiencies;*
 - (b) *Contract with qualified, independent third parties to provide services; and*
 - (c) *Apply for federal funds or other grants to operate the program.*

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 211 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *Individuals may apply for primary care services available from the Kentucky Physicians Care Program in their local Department for Community Based Services office or other enrollment sites approved by the cabinet. An individual shall be eligible for services available from the program if he or she meets the following criteria:*
 - (a) *A gross income limit of one hundred percent (100%) of the federal poverty level;*
 - (b) *A resource limit of two thousand dollars (\$2,000);*
 - (c) *Is not qualified for government medical assistance programs; and*
 - (d) *Is not covered by a health benefit plan as defined under subtitle 17A of KRS Chapter 304.*
- (2) *If an individual is determined to be eligible, the department shall refer the individual to the program. An individual shall be eligible for services available under the program for one (1) year and may reapply.*
- (3) *Services that may be available from the program include but are not limited to visits to health care professionals and prescription drugs donated by pharmaceutical companies and filled by retail and hospital pharmacies. Eligibility for the program does not guarantee an individual access to free services not available under the program.*
- (4) *Individuals shall not be charged a fee for services provided under this program.*
- (5) *The cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to implement the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this Act.*

Approved April 5, 2006.

