Provisos

There are 32 provisos in this section; the budget proposes to delete 10 and amend 2.

PROVISO SHORT TITLE

RECOMMENDATION

21.2 Long Term Care Facility Reimbursement Rate

Delete

This proviso directs the process for setting long term facilities' reimbursement rates by giving the option of using an inflation factor to increase rates annually. If rate increases are necessary, the Department has this authority through the Medicaid State Plan and does not need a proviso.

21.5 Medicaid State Plan

Amend

This proviso directs the Department to bill other state agencies to provide the state match for Medicaid services that were formerly paid fully with state funds or were added to the Medicaid State Plan at the request of another state agency. The Executive Budget recommends that the language referring to additional services requested by another state agency be stricken and language added to provide funding for additional Medicaid services through direct General Funds.

21.7 Admin. Days/Swing Beds Reduction Prohibition

Delete

This proviso prohibits the reduction in funding for Admin. Days/Swing Beds when the Department is faced with program reduction decisions. If program reductions are necessary, the Department should have fiscal and programmatic management authority over the entire Medicaid program.

21.8 Nursing Home Sanctions

Delete

This proviso establishes a fund to receive proceeds from nursing home fines for health and safety violations. The fund already exists in permanent law, rendering the proviso redundant.

21.14 Medicaid Cost Saving Suggestion Award Program

Delete

This proviso establishes an awards program for employees of Medicaid providers who generate cost-saving ideas. The Executive Budget supports the Department's position that the proviso should be deleted because the program has yielded no ideas.

21.17 Long Term Care Facility Reimbursement Rates

Delete

This proviso directs the Department to submit the Medicaid State Plan amendment for long term care facility rate increases to the federal government before August 1, in any year in which funds are allocated for rate increases. The Department already submits a State Plan amendment for any rate change; the proviso should be deleted.

21.19 Nursing Services to High Risk/High Tech Children

Delete

This proviso directs the Department to establish separate, higher pay scales for certain services to medically fragile children. The rates for these services already include calculations reflecting the skill required to perform them; the proviso needlessly raises the Medicaid program's costs.

21.20 Pediatric Literacy Program

Delete

This proviso requires that the Department assist any nonprofit pediatric literacy program to expand its operation. The Department complied with this proviso several years ago and has not been approached for expansion assistance since; the proviso is no longer needed.

21.22 Modular Ramps

Delete

This proviso allows the Department to lease modular ramps if cost-effective despite the absence of any known restriction. The proviso is unnecessary, and by its existence, implies that the Department does not have access to other cost-effective strategies without explicit authorization in law. It should be deleted.

21.23 Medicaid Cost and Quality Effectiveness

Amend

This proviso requires a public annual report, comparing coordinated care models and the fee-for-service program on cost-effectiveness and quality. As written, the proviso does not give the Department enough time to collect necessary data and present a report on the previous fiscal year. The Executive Budget recommends that the deadline be extended to December 31 for the prior state fiscal year.

21.28 Personal Emergency Response System

Delete

This proviso allows the Department to consider the use of two-button PERS units. Because PERS units are already available to Medicaid recipients, the proviso is unnecessary.

21.31 In-Home Health Care Systems for Medicaid Recipients

Delete

This proviso allows the Department to establish a pilot program utilizing an in-home health care system. The Executive Budget recommends deletion of the proviso, since the pilot has been implemented and the Department needs time to assess its potential for future use.