

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025**

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**HOUSE BILL 546  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/15/25**

Short Title: Inmate Medicaid Suspension/Team-Based Care.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 31, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE TEAM-BASED CARE COORDINATION IN MEDICAID  
SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND TO MODIFY THE MEDICAID PROGRAM TO  
SUSPEND RATHER THAN TERMINATE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR  
INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits (DHB), is directed, in coordination with a working group of stakeholders established by DHB, to develop a team-based care coordination Medicaid service that includes, at a minimum, screening for alcohol use disorder, opioid use disorder, and other mild to moderate substance use disorders; prescription medications for opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder; recovery support; and case management.

**SECTION 1.(b)** No later than October 1, 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and the Fiscal Research Division containing details on the new Medicaid service developed in accordance with this section. The report shall include all of the following:

- (1) The State share of the cost of the service.
- (2) The intended start date for the coverage of the service.
- (3) The types of PHP capitated contracts that will cover the service and any related proposed statutory changes to Article 4 of Chapter 108D of the General Statutes.

**SECTION 1.(c)** The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits, is directed to develop a statewide campaign to (i) educate healthcare providers and community leaders about any changes made to the Medicaid program related to the treatment of alcohol use disorder, opioid use disorder, and other mild to moderate substance use disorders, (ii) train interested providers in clinical care for alcohol use disorder, opioid use disorder, and other mild to moderate substance use disorders, and (iii) encourage substance use disorder provider participation in the Medicaid program.

**SECTION 2.** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Benefits, shall continue to implement its policy changes to suspend, rather than terminate, Medicaid benefits upon a Medicaid beneficiary's incarceration, as required by the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, P.L. 118-42. No later than October 1, 2025, DHHS shall submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and the Fiscal Research Division a report on (i) DHHS's progress implementing the automated process in the NCFAST eligibility information system that allows data sharing between county jails and DHHS and (ii)



- 1 any ongoing challenges to meeting the federal requirement to suspend, rather than terminate,
- 2 Medicaid benefits upon a Medicaid beneficiary's incarceration.
- 3 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.