



S. 3560 - A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security to provide additional funds for the qualifying individual (QI) program

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 3560 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) on September 24, 2008. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on September 25, 2008. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, but was never considered.

S. 3560 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 26, 2008.

SUMMARY

Qualifying Individual Program: This bill increases funding for the Qualifying Individual (QI) Program by \$15 million in fiscal year 2008 and \$30 million in 2009.

Incentives to Develop Antibiotics: S. 3560 provides certain incentives for the development of and access to antibiotics. Sponsors of drugs which were approved before 1997 receive a three year exclusivity period, and sponsors of those antibiotics submitted before November 21, 1997, which have not been approved may be eligible for a three- or five-year exclusivity period.

S. 3560 also mandates the use of the state Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS), which provides data matching services.

Medicaid Integrity Program: The bill increases funding for the Medicaid Integrity program by \$70 million. S. 3560 expands this program to provide education and training for State and local officials and employees of Medicaid.

Note: The Medicaid Integrity Program was established by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to improve the Medicare fee-for-service program.

BACKGROUND

Certain low-income individuals are eligible to have their Medicare part B premiums paid for by Medicaid under the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). One eligible group is Qualifying Individuals (QIs). These persons must have incomes between 120% and 135% of the poverty level.

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 directed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to establish the Medicaid Integrity Program (MIP). This program increased the resources available to CMS to combat fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicaid program. The MIP uses contractors to review provider activities, audit claims, and identify overpayments. This program also provides support and assistance to States in their efforts to combat provider fraud and abuse.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for S. 3560 as of September 26, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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