

SUPPORT VPLC'S HHR BUDGET PRIORITIES

Governor's Budget (GB); Budget Amendment (BA)

HEALTH CARE | Sara Cariano • sara@vplc.org • (804) 332-1432

- **BA Item 304 #12s (Favola), #32s (Deeds), #44h (Sickles); Streamline Medicaid enrollment for SSI recipients:** Directs DMAS to enter a "1634 agreement" with the Social Security Administration, allowing DMAS to **accept SSI determinations to confirm Medicaid eligibility of SSI recipients without a duplicate application process. These individuals are already eligible**, but some are not enrolled due to administrative barriers.
- **BA Item 493 #1s (McClellan), #5h (Rasoul); State-Based Exchange Marketing and Outreach:** Provides additional marketing and outreach funding to **ensure a successful transition to the state-based exchange in 2023**. Currently, 307,946 Virginians are enrolled through the federal exchange and will be required to transition. This was a unanimous recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care.
- **BA Item 304 #25h (Farris), #26h (Willett), #27h (Adams, D.), #17s (Lucas), #47s (Hanger); Extend Temporary Rate Increase for Most HCBS Providers:** Extending the HCBS rate increase will ease workforce shortages and allow more Medicaid members needing long-term care to in stay in the community.
- **BA 305 #1s (McClellan); Comprehensive Children's Health Insurance Plan, study:** Initially, established a state-based health care program for uninsured children who would qualify for Medicaid or FAMIS except for their immigration status. After failure of the bill, directs DMAS to further study the issue and suggest a plan design. **This is an important step towards ensuring that all children in VA have access to healthcare.**
- **GB Item 304 GGGG (313 NNNNNN, Caboose Budget); Exclude excess resources accumulated during the federal public health emergency (PHE) for long-term services and supports recipients for 12 months:** Members may have accrued excess resources during the federal PHE. This temporary exclusion will **prevent unnecessary coverage losses for this vulnerable population as the state "unwinds" from the federal Medicaid requirements tied to the PHE**. When the PHE ends, DMAS and DSS will have process renewals for more than 1.96 million Medicaid members. This will help streamline the process and ease the massive burden on these agencies.
- **GB Item 304 QQ, language only; Clarifies continuous 12-month eligibility for pregnant women in Medicaid and FAMIS.** Virginia has already received federal approval and funding; this language clarifies existing practice.
- **GB Item 304 FFFF (313 MMMMMMM, Caboose Budget); Eliminations Medicaid and FAMIS copayments:** These nominal co-pays create an administrative burden for both Medicaid enrollees and the state.
- **GB Item 304 EEEE; Covers preventative Services and Vaccines for Eligible Adult Population.** Aligns Medicaid preventative benefits for all adult Medicaid enrollees, independent eligibility category.
- **GB Item 304 J.4; Funds 1,200 additional DD waiver slots.** Funds much needed **DD waiver spots to reduce the waitlist**, providing much needed access to care for vulnerable Virginians.
- **GB Item 304 BBB.2, IIII, JJJJ, KKKK, LLLL, NNNN.1, MMMM; Medicaid & FAMIS Rate Increases:** The Governor's proposed budget includes many Medicaid rate increases, all of which are important to ensure that Medicaid has an adequate provider network and members can access federally required services.

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- **BA 348 #1s (Spruill); 344 #3h (Hope); Assisted Living Facility appeals process:** individuals being involuntarily discharged would have **right to a due process hearing**. SB40/HB690
- **BA Item 335 #1s (Barker), #1h (Carr); Ombudsman Funding:** Fully funds the State's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Virginia **underfunds the program by 24 positions**.



ELDER LAW, CONTINUED | Emily Hardy • emily@vplc.org • (804) 351-5273; C: (309) 231-8095

- **BA Item 304 #56h (Head); *Language only*.** Community Based Care Reimbursement: Calculates 300% SSI community-based care and nursing home care cost the same, reducing barriers to less restrictive environments. **This will keep people out of more expensive nursing home care and allow more people to age in place.**
- **GB Item 335 H; Senior Legal Helpline:** Funding ended for this program and **low-income seniors lost access to basic legal advice and referral to other legal programs in 2021.**
- **GB Item 331 B1-4; Public Guardianship and Conservatorship Slots and Unmet Needs Study:** Funds 300 additional slots to start **clearing the waitlist** and funds the **mandated unmet needs study** that has not been done since 2007.
- **BA Item 304 #54s;** Increases Personal Maintenance Allowance for Medicaid members receiving community-based care.
- **BA Item 304 #25s (McClellan); *Language only*.** Directs DMAS to develop a plan to cover certain home and community-based services for individuals not currently eligible for Medicaid HCBS.
- **BA Item 304 #27s (McClellan), 304 #11h (Sickles):** requires evaluation of the Value Based Purchasing program: considers consumer satisfaction with staffing and quality as recommended by JCHC.
- **BA Item 331 #2s (McPike), #2h (Roem) and 46 #3h (Roem);** Guardian training and period review of guardianships: JLARC recommendation in SB514/HB1260 and SB 514/HB643/1207.

CHILD WELFARE | Valerie L'Herrou • valerie@vplc.org • (804) 351-5276

- **BA Item 345 #9s (Edwards), #5h (Kilgore); Parent Representation Center Pilot:** Creates pilot parent representation centers for parents involved in foster care proceedings. Multiple other states have found this **improves outcomes for children** in foster care **while saving money:** it shortens the time children spend in foster care and **increases likelihood a child will be adopted in a timely fashion.** Both years must be funded to demonstrate similar outcomes here.
- **BA Item 345 #5s (Mason), #1h (Gooditis); Kinship Foster Appeals:** This amendment provides for the fiscal impact of SB307/HB716 to allow relatives to file an appeal regarding denials of a relative's application to become a kinship foster parent; specifies timeline of such appeals.
- **BA Item 345 #2s (Mason); Fund FFPSA Infrastructure:** Creates 22 positions to expand infrastructure to **comply with federal requirements** of Family First Prevention Services Act.
- **GB Item 354 M1-2 (caboose), 345 L2, M1; Updating child welfare system (OASIS):** Complies with federal requirements for data reporting and **better serves children in foster care.**

PUBLIC BENEFITS | Salaam Bhatti • salaam@vplc.org • (804) 351-5265

- **BA Item 340 #1s (McClellan); #1h (Rasoul); Increase TANF Benefits by 10%. This funds previously agreed to TANF increases.**
- **BA Item 341 #4s (Hashmi), #4h (Sickles); Adjust TANF full family sanctions: This prevents children from being penalized** for adults in the household who are not in compliance with work requirements. They will continue to receive TANF cash assistance albeit at a reduced amount until adults are in compliance.
- **BA Item 341 #8s (Hashmi), #3h (Shin); DSS Pilot Programs to Reduce Poverty:** Tasks DSS with developing and implementing demonstration projects to **help families earn a living wage and escape poverty.**
- **BA Item 341 #7s (Hashmi), 341 #2s (Favola), #7h (Lopez); Streamline TANF issuance:** Removes the 24 month on/off issuance of TANF benefits for VIEW participants so that they can receive assistance for up to 60 months continuously.
- **BA Item 341 #5s (Hashmi), 341 #9h (Rasoul), 341 #5h (Bennett-Parker); Supplemental SNAP Benefits for Senior Citizens:** Provides a \$25 supplement for senior citizens who receive SNAP benefits.