



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 384**

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1473

*Senate, April 1, 2025*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. LESSER of the 9th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR FDA-APPROVED GENE THERAPIES TO TREAT SICKLE CELL DISEASE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of  
2       Social Services shall provide Medicaid coverage for gene therapies  
3       approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration to treat sickle  
4       cell disease.

5       (b) The commissioner shall apply for any federal initiative to increase  
6       cost-effective access to the therapies, including, but not limited to, the  
7       Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model administered by the Centers for  
8       Medicare and Medicaid Services.

9       (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall file a report,  
10      in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
11      with the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
12      cognizance of matters relating to human services on the (1) efforts to  
13      increase cost-effective access to the therapies, (2) number of Medicaid

14 recipients who have received Medicaid coverage for the therapies, (3)  
15 cost to the state to provide such therapies, and (4) estimated state  
16 appropriations needed to provide such coverage.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill, which requires Medicaid coverage for federally approved gene therapies to treat sickle cell disease, has no fiscal impact as it conforms to current practice.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 1473*****AN ACT REQUIRING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR FDA-APPROVED GENE THERAPIES TO TREAT SICKLE CELL DISEASE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services commissioner to give Medicaid coverage for federal Food and Drug Administration-approved gene therapies to treat sickle cell disease (federal law generally requires Medicaid to cover these therapies from manufacturers participating in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program (42 U.S.C. § 1396r-8)). The commissioner must apply for any federal initiative, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' cell and gene therapy access model, to increase cost-effective access to these therapies (which conforms to current practice).

The commissioner must report, by January 1, 2026, to the Human Services Committee on (1) efforts to increase cost-effective access to the therapies, (2) the number of Medicaid recipients who received Medicaid-covered therapies and the state's cost to provide them, and (3) estimated state appropriations needed to provide this coverage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17      Nay 5      (03/13/2025)