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## 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)