

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

S

1

SENATE BILL 560

Short Title: Insurance Premium Assistance for Pregnancy. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hise (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Insurance.

April 1, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR  
3 LOWER-INCOME, UNINSURED PREGNANT WOMEN.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 2 of Chapter 108A is amended by adding a new Part to read  
6 as follows:

7 "Part 10. Insurance Premium Assistance for Pregnancy.

8 **"§ 108A-70.35. Definitions.**

9 In this Part, the following definitions apply:

- 10 (1) Federal poverty level. – The federal poverty guidelines established by the  
11 United States Department of Health and Human Services, as periodically  
12 revised.  
13 (2) Household income. – As defined under 26 U.S.C. § 5000A(c)(4)(B).  
14 (3) Medicaid. – The State Medical Assistance Program established under Part 6  
15 of this Article.  
16 (4) Minimum essential coverage. – As defined under 26 U.S.C. § 5000A(f)(1).  
17 (5) Program. – The Insurance Premium Assistance for Pregnancy program  
18 established in this Part.  
19 (6) Uninsured. – Without minimum essential coverage.

20 **"§ 108A-70.36. Purpose; no entitlement.**

21 The purpose of this Part is to help uninsured lower-income pregnant women who are  
22 residents of this State acquire health insurance through premium assistance. Premium  
23 assistance shall be paid from State funds appropriated. Nothing in this Part shall be construed  
24 as obligating the General Assembly to appropriate funds for this purpose or as entitling any  
25 person to receive premium assistance under this Part.

26 **"§ 108A-70.37. Program established.**

27 The Insurance Premium Assistance for Pregnancy program is established. The program  
28 shall be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with this  
29 Part.

30 **"§ 108A-70.38. Program eligibility.**

31 In order to participate in the program, an individual must meet all of the following  
32 requirements:

- 33 (1) Be a resident of the State.  
34 (2) Be lawfully present in the United States.  
35 (3) Not be on active punishment, as that term is defined under  
36 G.S. 15A-1340.11.



1           (4)    Have a medically verified pregnancy.

2           (5)    Not have minimum essential coverage.

3           (6)    Have household income of no more than one hundred eighty-five percent  
4                (185%) of the federal poverty level.

5    "**§ 108A-70.39. Program benefits.**

6           (a)    An individual who qualifies under G.S. 108A-70.38 shall be eligible for premium  
7    assistance from the State to help the individual purchase coverage under a health benefit plan  
8    during the period of the pregnancy through the end of the second calendar month following the  
9    pregnancy.

10          (b)    The amount of the premium assistance shall be the amount necessary to purchase  
11    insurance coverage up to the amount provided in 26 U.S.C. § 36B(b)(2)(B)(ii).

12          (c)    The Department of Health and Human Services shall remit the amount of the  
13    premium assistance to a qualified individual's insurer on behalf of the qualified individual.

14          (d)    A qualified individual who participates in the program shall remain responsible for  
15    the other costs of the health benefit plan in which they are enrolled, including any cost sharing."

16           **SECTION 2.** Without regard to resources, pregnant women with household  
17    income, as that term is used in 26 U.S.C. § 5000A(c)(4)(B), that is equal to or less than one  
18    hundred thirty-three percent (133%) of the federal poverty level are eligible for services related  
19    only to pregnancy and those other conditions determined by the Department of Health and  
20    Human Services as conditions that may complicate pregnancy.

21           **SECTION 3.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall timely submit  
22    any State plan amendments necessary or take other appropriate actions so that the  
23    programmatic changes provided in Sections 1 and 2 of this act may take effect on January 1,  
24    2014.

25           **SECTION 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective January 1, 2014, and  
26    apply to pregnancies medically verified on or after that date. The remainder of this act is  
27    effective when it becomes law.